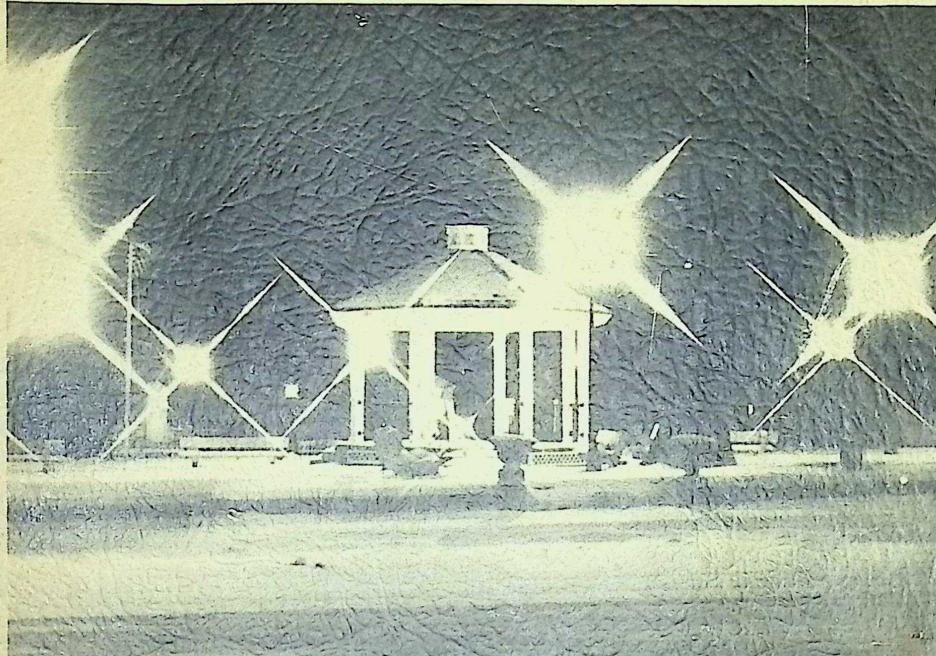


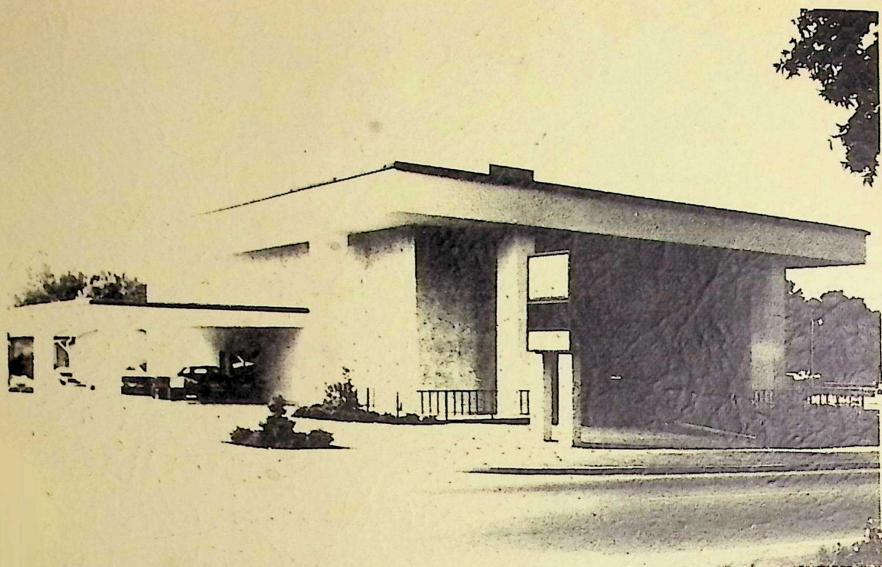
HUNTINGDON



The New Gazebo At Thomas Park

A History

By Ben Humble Hall, J. Leroy Tate Sr.
And Frances Enochs Bush
With Other Contributions



The Huntingdon office on West Main Street - 986-4401

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THE HUNTINGDON STORY

BY

BEN HUMBLE HALL

WITH SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

BY

FRANCES ENOCHS BUSH AND J. LEROY TATE

AND

THE LATE BENNIE CAROLINE HUMBLE HALL

**Published By The Carroll County News
for the benefit
of
The Billy O. Williams Museum
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Dennis and Lisa Richardson, owners**

PREFACE

This is **THE HUNTINGDON STORY!** It is the story of the Town of Huntingdon, Tennessee, from its early days in the 1800's as a very small hamlet and through the years during which it has grown into a very fine, reasonably progressive and charming, good-sized town with a population of 4,513 (1982 census).

THE HUNTINGDON STORY was written initially during late 1971 and early 1972 by Huntingdon-born Ben Humble Hall, a descendant of ancestors who were active here in town and county affairs for many years, for possible use in connection with the observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Carroll County, the Sesqui-Centennial for the county and Huntingdon, observed in 1972. For use along with and as part of **THE HUNTINGDON STORY**, the writer's mother, Bennie Caroline Humble Hall, editor, writer and author of many books (now deceased) wrote a series of items designed to take readers back down "MEMORY LANE" into the past.

THE HUNTINGDON STORY was published serially by **THE CARROLL COUNTY NEWS** in 22 installments over a period of that many weeks in 1972. The newspaper arranged the timing so that the final installment would appear during the week the Sesqui-Centennial was being celebrated.

THE HUNTINGDON STORY -- now 14 years later -- has been brought up-to-date, with certain portions being re-written or added to so that the various changes, improvements and developments that have been made for Huntingdon since the material originally was

written might be included. At the same time, two other Huntingdon residents who also have had considerable writing experience and who have through the years collected materials on Huntingdon and written special newspaper feature articles based on "memories" have made some of their writings available for use with **THE HUNTINGDON STORY**.

These two are: Frances Enoch Bush and J. Leroy Tate Sr. Mrs. Bush, like Hall, is a descendant of ancestors who played major roles in the early days of Huntingdon and for a great many years afterwards. Although retired since 1972, Mrs. Bush, who was an employee of the Bank of Huntingdon for 46 years, has herself continued taking an active interest in Huntingdon and Huntingdon affairs and has written many special newspaper feature articles on subjects relating to the town and its people. Mr. Tate, a retired, long-time Huntingdon school teacher and, again, a descendant also active in various town affairs, also has written newspaper feature articles based on his memories of the past and also is the author of a published book on memories, "**The Good Old Days Of The 20's and 30's**."

Mrs. Bush and Mr. Tate have been active members of the Huntingdon Homecoming '86 Heritage Committee. They have joined Hall in making available without charge use of some of their writings for inclusion in a booklet to be entitled "**THE HUNTINGDON STORY**" with the proceeds from the sale of such publication being available for a worthy local cause, "**THE BILLY O. WILLIAMS MUSEUM**," being established in Huntingdon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The sources for the material covered in **THE HUNTINGDON STORY** have been many. Information on Huntingdon as a town and as the seat of Carroll County has come from many who are now deceased, also from many still living.

To name each person, now living or deceased, who has provided some of the information herein and to list absolutely all publications and other written materials which may have served as a source would be most difficult and space-consuming. Further, it is most likely that there might be a slip-up under which someone or some

publication is not mentioned.

Accordingly, no attempt will be made to name all contributors and list all other sources. Instead, we extend our deep and most sincere appreciation to each and every one who has cooperated in this project.

Further, since there have been so very many persons who, over the years, have played a role in the building of Huntingdon, it is not possible to include all their names. For this we are certain that those who are living and the descendants of those who are no longer with us will be understanding.



Dedication

This book, diligently researched and prepared, is dedicated to the memory of **Billy O. Williams**, Poet Laureate of Carroll County and Associate Poet Laureate of Tennessee.

'Billy O' was a true joy to be around, spreading sunlight where ever he went. It is my pleasure to have known Billy O. Williams as a friend and to have published three of his last poetry books. His memory is an inspiration, his talent a gift from God, his impression forever.

*Dennis M. Richardson
Carroll County News*

THE HUNTINGDON STORY

BY

BEN HUMBLE HALL

RICH TRADITION Began In 1822

Few small communities in all of America are so rich in tradition, local color, and history as this, our town, Huntingdon, Tennessee, established in 1822.

It was bitterly cold on the early morning of Monday, December 9, 1822, in this area. Truly, it was a miserable day for man, bird or beast. The warm weather birds had migrated to points further south. Those persons who did not have to go outside remained indoors, keeping warm as best they could in their homes, which consisted mainly of log cabins inadequately heated by open fireplaces or wood-burning cook stoves.

Even animals living in the surrounding area took refuge from the cold by remaining in holes beneath the ground, in caves or in heavy growths of underbrush. Only now and then could one spot an audacious rabbit or some other heavily-furred four-legged creature, and then only briefly.

Despite the chill in the air, however, there was work to be done, so Nathan Nesbitt, with true pioneer spirit, heavily bundled up in homespun clothing and wearing boots, left his home near Buena Vista early that morning and started through the woods toward Huntingdon, about five miles away. Nesbitt was accompanied by his son, William, who was also warmly-attired.

With hatchet and cross-cut saw, along with whatever help young William could provide, Nesbitt blazed a trail through the dense forest to the hamlet of Huntingdon. Arriving, Nesbitt took his saw from his shoulder and cut a doorway into a small, dirt-floored, one-room log cabin. The modest edifice had been constructed a few days earlier on what still is known as Court House Square. This cabin was to serve as the Temple of Justice for the newly-created seat of Carroll County.

The doorway accomplished, Nesbitt, as Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, entered the log structure and officially opened the first session of Court ever to be held in Huntingdon. A sizeable crowd of early settlers which had come on horseback from McLemoresville and Buena Vista (circa 1820), as well as from elsewhere in the new county, watched with lively interest as Nathan Nesbitt proceeded with his various duties on this historic occasion.

More spectators joined the group as the day wore on. Like the Court officials, some of them had brought bedding and provisions, prepared to camp out, if necessary. The sturdy pioneers, it seemed, were bent upon seeing the unique performance through, even if it took all winter.

As many as possible crowded into the small Court House to see and hear what went on, but the room was so tiny that practically all space was taken by people who had business inside. Those remaining outside got their news by word of mouth, as did other townfolks.

Unfortunately, there are no records to show exactly what day of what month and in what year the very first settlers appeared in what

became the Huntingdon area. It is known, however, that the early group included Samuel J. Ingram, John Crockett, James H. Gee, William H. Thompson, Thomas Ross, John Swinn, and Robert Murray. It is also known that Samuel Ingram and John Swinn each built dwelling houses on the side of Huntingdon before it became the seat of Justice, and that Crockett, the first local merchant, built his storehouse on what is now the public square before the town was surveyed.

Carroll County itself was organized by an Act of the State General Assembly, meeting in Murfreesboro. That measure was passed on November 7, 1821. The Act called for setting up of a new county, to be named Carroll in honor of the incumbent Governor William Carroll. The Act also specified that the new county should be within the following boundaries:

"Beginning on the west boundary of Humphreys County (now the west line of Benton County) at the southeast corner of Henry, running thence west with the south boundary of said county to the southwest corner of Henry County; thence south parallel with the range line to a point two and a half miles south of the line dividing the Ninth and Twelfth Districts; thence east parallel with the sectional line in the Ninth District; thence north to the northeast corner of range two, section eleven, in said Ninth District; thence east with the district line to the west boundary of Perry and Humphreys County to the beginning.

By a subsequent Act, passed on November 21, 1821, Sterling Brewer, of Dickson County, James Fentress, of Montgomery County, and Abram Maury, of Williamson County, were appointed Commissioners to fix on a place as near the center as a eligible site could be procured, within three miles of the center thereof, for the seat of justice. During the interim period, the seat of justice was in McLemoresville, with the Court Sessions being held in the home of R.E.C. Dougherty.

At the June term of Court in McLemoresville in 1822, Banks W. Burrow, Thomas A. Thompson, John Stockard, Samuel Ingram, and Mark R. Roberts were appointed Commissioners to lay out the county seat of the newly-formed Carroll County and to superintend the sale of lots and the erection of public buildings. Nathan Nesbitt subsequently was added to this group.

Following the appointment of the group, Sterling Brewer and James Fentress went before the Court to report they had chosen for the site of the county seat the tract of land belonging to the heirs of the late Mimican Hunt (sometimes spelled Mimucan). This land, they said, lay on the north bank of Beaver Creek.

The title for the tract for the new Town of Huntingdon, consisting of fifty acres, was not obtained until July 21, 1823, but it was decided to proceed with the planning in advance. The town was laid out by James H. Gee under the supervision of the Commissioners appointed by the Court in McLemoresville in June, 1822.

Plat For Town Made In 1823

The plat for the town actually was made on August 9, 1822, and a copy of the original was made in 1823. Fred Tate, who was in the real estate business in Huntingdon for many years (but is now deceased), found the 1823 copy of the original plat among some items he purchased at an auction sale. The 1823 copy, although framed, was in poor condition, so Mr. Tate made still another reproduction on March 17, 1824.

Mr. Tate later made another copy for inclusion in a land record book in the county Register's office at the Court House in Huntingdon. It is followed with this entry:

State of Tennessee, Carroll County. Personally appeared before me, Mrs. J. W. Murphy, a notary public, in said State and County, Fred Tate, being duly sworn, made the following statement:

"I am a resident of Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee, and while attending a public sale of the effects of Dr. J. W. McCall, deceased, a former resident of the same town, I purchased what was purported to be a copy of the original plat of the town of Huntingdon. The above is copied from a copy which I made from the

one I bought as nearly as I could decipher it, some of the figures and writing being so dim that they could not be deciphered. I offered it for registration and the Register, Mrs. Bessie Davis, consented to place it and this affidavit on record for the use of the public for whatever they may be worth. (Signed) Fred Tate"

"Sworn and subscribed before me this 22nd day of February, 1928. (Signed). Mrs. J. W. Murphy, notary public.

"My commission expires January 11, 1932."

The copy made by Mr. Tate for the Register shows Court House Square and a total of 117 lots, marked off and carrying prices ranging from a low of \$10 to a high of \$185.50, the later being for the largest corner lot on the square. In addition to the area surrounding the square, the plat carries both the present East and West Paris Streets under the name of West Street. Main Street is entered as Main Street West and Main Street East, and the plat also shows, just off the square, a South Street and a Spring Street. Lots were not marked off for any great distance from the square.

TOWN GETS NAME

The town first was named Huntsville. Both that and the final name of Huntingdon were said to have been selected in honor of Mimican Hunt. The Court Commissioners decided to change the name after it was realized that there was a Huntsville in Alabama.

There are several stories as to how the name of Huntingdon was selected. One is to the effect that it was suggested by the town planner and surveyor Gee, who also was a musician. He is said to have suggested the name "Huntingdon" because of his fondness for an old tune by that name.

According to another story, the town got its name from a party of early home-seekers, who, when they reached the site, decided to locate here permanently, whereupon one remarked: "I'm glad the hunt is done," while another said, "Yes, the hunting's done."

And, finally, there is a legendary story that the name came from a comment by Indians when the white man moved in. "Hunting's done," they are said to have deplored.

Regardless of how Huntingdon really got its name, it started out as a picturesque town and remains so today. And it certainly became a town before the hunting was done, for, in the early days, this area was literally a sportsman's paradise. There was an abundance of deer, bear, and wild turkey and fishing was so easy that it was, as one old-timer has written, "robbed of its sportsmanlike aspects," or at least a present-day fisherman would have regarded it as so.

But there were many animals around that meant trouble: wolves, fox, panthers, and snakes. It is said that the reputation this new country had in North Carolina, where the original owners of much of the land came from, was that it had "fifty bushels of frogs to the acre, and snakes enough to fence the land." The wild animals, of course, brought serious problems to early settlers, killing their horses, mules and other cattle. To help eliminate the wild animals, bounties were offered for each one killed.

Carroll "Crider" was believed to have been the last slave sold at an auction in Huntingdon. At the auction, he is said to have feigned illness to keep his selling price down so that James Crider could afford to buy him. Mr. Crider did buy him and it pleased Carroll so much that he lifted Mr. Crider up, raised him to his shoulders and then circled the Court House twice in a dead run, shouting his happiness.

Many of Huntingdon's early settlers had in their household slaves of both sex and there were slave sales from time to time. Usually, such sales were held in the vicinity of the Court House Square, with the slaves being offered at auction to the highest bidder.

Slaves belonging to an individual, if still in his family at his death, were willed to others. For example, the first will probated in Huntingdon disposed of a number of slaves, as did the will of Nathan Nesbitt, which was written on September 20, 1827, and filed in the County Court in October, 1828, in Book A at the County Clerk's office. Mr. Nesbitt's will reads as follows:

"I, Nathan Nesbitt, being of sound mind and in perfect health, do constitute this my last will and testament in word following to wit:

"I leave my wife, Ann Nesbitt, the plantation where I now live and all the farming tools of every kind and all the stock of horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep and Cloe, Tilda, and Handy. The above property I leave her during her natural life of widowhood. Also, I leave her Jep, Lida, Alex Crouch, and Jo til Thomas A. T. Nesbitt comes of age. Also, I leave in her care Mary and Ann and two other slaves til Sarah and Angelina, my two daughters, marry or come of age.

"I leave my son, Samuel J. Nesbitt, a lot of land on Sandy, beginning on a stake the northeast corner of seven hundred and 769 acre, together with what I have already given him. I leave to my daughter, Jean, no Jane Humble, one negro boy called Randol, also one cow and calf, one ewe and lamb, together with what I have already given her.

"I leave my son, Wilson Nesbitt, one lot of land beginning on a stake south east corner of the said 769 acre tract, also when he becomes of age I leave him a horse. I leave my two twin sons, (vi) Robert J. Nesbitt and Nathan Nesbitt, two middle lots of said number

Slavery

769 acre, Robert the North, Nathan the South. If either of them should one die before they come of age, the other has both lots. Also, when they become of age, they are to have a horse, saddle, and bridle apiece.

"I leave to Benjamin N. Nesbitt one lot of land beginning at a stake the southwest corner of said 769 acre, also to have a horse, saddle, and bridle.

"I leave Sarah P. Nesbitt one negro girl called Mary, a horse, saddle, and bridle, a bed and furniture. I leave Angelina Nesbitt one negro girl called ANN, a horse, saddle, and bridle, a bed and furniture. I leave John C. Nesbitt one lot of land beginning at a stake the northeast corner of said 769 acre tract, runs south and west, also to have a horse, saddle, and bridle.

"William C. Nesbitt, I leave all the land that lies on the east side of the branch where I now live and a horse, saddle, and bridle. And last of all I leave Thomas A. T. Nesbitt, at the death of his mother, all the land west side of the branch, and a horse, saddle, and bridle.

"Be it remembered that none of the before mentioned children is to have a horse until the arrive at 21. The horses to be raised out of the products of the farm. I also leave my wife, Ann Nesbitt, Samuel J. Nesbitt, and William Nesbitt my Executors of this, my last will and testament. Given under my hand and seal this 20 September, 1827. (Signed) Nathan Nesbitt."

"NB. The young negroes, Jep, Lida, and Alex Crouch and Jo and as much of the stock as my wife can spare is to be sold or divided so that all these children have an equal share, Sam, Wilson, Robert, Nathan, Benjamin, Sarah, Angelina, John, William, and Thomas."

"Acknowledged in the presence of this 16th of October, 1828, Robert Nicholson, Samuel Benton, State of Tennessee, Carroll County."

Last Slave Sold, Last One Living

Carroll "Crider" was believed to have been the last slave sold at an auction in Huntingdon. At the auction, he is said to have feigned illness to keep his selling price down so that James Crider could afford to buy him. Mr. Crider did buy him and it pleased Carroll so much that he lifted Mr. Crider up, raised him to his shoulders and then circled the Court House twice in a dead run, shouting his happiness.

Mr. Crider did not keep Carroll long. Shortly after buying him, he set him free and the newly-freed slave left. A couple of years later, however, Carroll returned to Mr. Crider and said he would like to resume living at his place, and did so as far as is known.

Information on the case of Carroll came from his two grandchildren, Raymond Yellie Kemp, of Trezevant, and Mrs. Lillian Kemp Bridges, of Louisville, KY.

About the last ex-slave to die in Huntingdon, it is believed, was Mary Killen, affectionately called "Aunt Mary" by the family with whom she passed her last days. She never knew her exact age, though it is expected her life-span added up to almost a century.

Aunt Mary, beginning as a very young girl, was a slave in the Humble family of Carroll County and, although eventually freed, she elected to remain with the family for four generations. When a new brick house was built here on Huntingdon's Main Street, the family which had "inherited" Aunt Mary (the family of Alaska and Benjie Caroline Humble Hall) had a section of an older frame home torn down to make way for the brick one saved and turned into a permanent home for her to live in. By this time, Aunt Mary was too feeble to work, though she continued to take a lively interest in the affairs of her "beloved white folks."

As long as she lived, Aunt Mary, always a privileged character, was provided with her little house out back behind the brick one where she could live in peace and quiet, surrounded by her small necessities, keepsakes and memories. In addition to her food and other necessities, she was given a weekly stipend so that she might maintain her sense of independence and buy snuff and smoking tobacco

for her pipe, along with any modest luxuries which caught her fancy. The balance she would store in a trunk until she had a sufficiently sizeable amount to make a good contribution to her church.

Aunt Mary had her meals in the kitchen of the big house and this periodically created something of a problem for the "white folks." The hired help knew that they had to tolerate Aunt Mary, even wait on her to a degree, and thus cater to her. However, sometimes she would "bug" a cook to such a point that the cook would up and quit her job. She would "bug" the hired help by telling them how to do this and that, saying that whatever they were doing something was the wrong way, that they should "do it my way."

In a very short period of time, Aut Mary "bugged" about three cooks into quitting their job. It was not until one Mary Carter was hired to work in the big house that Aunt Mary's "white folks" were able to keep a cook. Mary Carter got along fine with Aunt Mary, humoring the older woman in just about every possible way. Also, each day Mary Carter came to work she would be with her one of her many children and let the child visit with Aunt Mary while household tasks were being done. The young child would keep Aunt Mary thoroughly occupied.

About one thing, Aunt Mary was adamant: She would never accept greenbacks when given her weekly stipend. She wanted nothing but silver, because she remembered all-too-well the post-war days when Confederate money was declared useless as a means of exchange. Therefore, she was having no "truck" with the paper money, wanting nothing but "safe money" in her personal cache.

During her last days, Aunt Mary spent most of her time sitting on her doorstep, smoking her corn cob pipe while regaling neighborhood children with nostalgic stories of slavery days which in her humble opinion had represented a safe and secure way of life; in her particular case, a blessing rather than a curse.

Aunt Mary passed away in the early 1930's, greatly beloved and respected by everyone - both black and white - who had the privilege to know her.

DAVID CROCKETT

David Crockett, eventually to become hero of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, appeared in Huntingdon frequently during the early days. He thus became a familiar figure in the history of the town and county.

Not so many years ago, as "King of the Frontier," Crockett was highly publicized on the silver screen as well as on radio and television. His habit of wearing a coonskin hat proved a real boon to manufacturers and merchants throughout the country. Here, they decided, was a fast selling item they could sink their teeth into. Tradesmen from all over hopped on the bandwagon and began the mass production of coonskin hats. Youngsters everywhere rushed to stores to buy them, and there was scarcely a style-conscious whip-snapper anywhere who was not the proud possessor of a Davy Crockett hat. Even a few politicians donned such headgear, as evidence of their democratic ideals, heroic proclivities and homespun background.

There are no records, however, that young David Crockett was anything of a hero during his sojourn in this particular area, except for the fact that he did help rid the countryside of wild fox and wolves.

The first record of David Crockett in this area shows up in those for the County Court term of Monday, September 9, 1822, which was held in McLemoresville. This shows that he came into the Court and made an oath to the fact that he had killed two wolves, one over and one under the age of four months. There was at that time a bounty for killing dangerous animals; also, skins frequently were used for the payment of fines, and were, of course, quite useful in making items of clothing.

In the term of Court beginning on December 9, 1822, the day on which Nathan Nesbitt opened the first Court House in Huntingdon, Crockett was named as one of a number of jurors to serve in the Court Session of March, 1823. The records do not show what part,

if any, he did play in that session.

On the other hand, the records for the March term do show that Crockett came into Court and made an oath to the effect that he had killed two wolves and within the bounds of the county, both animals being over the age of six months.

At the June term in 1823, a bill of indictment against Crockett for an assault was handed down. This involved an alleged "fractus", as they called it in those days, just outside Huntingdon, where, around 1818, there had been established a racetrack at which there were also held barbecues, "bran" dances, prizefight and cock fights.

One story, as well as a special sign placed a number of years ago near the town line on the road to Lexington where the old race track was located, claims that Crockett participated in an "affray" while attending the races and that he was fined six coon skins. The Court records of 1823, if they relate to the same case, however, show that Crockett pleaded not guilty and was released, with the decision being made by the Court that the Court would pay the cost of the prosecution.

At the Court Session on September 10, 1823, an effort was made by one Jesse West to recover from David Crockett the sum of \$130.50, presumably the amount due on a loan. Records do not make it clear exactly what was involved. The Court ruled that the Plaintiff was entitled to recovery of the debt, plus his expenses in trying to recover it.

However, it is not known if Crockett ever did pay West the \$130.50. Court records for the December term of 1824 carry a statement of the Court that the cost of the case involving the efforts of West could not be recovered from Crockett. Accordingly, the Court ruled: "It is, therefore, considered by the Court here that judgement be and is hereby ordered against the Plaintiff and his securities for the cost in his behalf expended and the defendant," whatever that means.

HANGINGS

According to early history, there were two hangings in Huntingdon, as the seat of the County. These, of course, were before the time arrangements were made for all State of Tennessee executions to take place in Nashville.

The first person to hang for a crime of murder was Frank Oliver (colored) for the murder of a widowed lady. After being tried and

convicted, the man was executed on the gallows in May of 1847. Thousands of people came to see the execution. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 were present.

The second hanging was held privately, with only a few official witnesses. This took place in July, 1884. Charley Phillips (colored), was hanged for the murder of another colored man.

The War Between The States

The residents of Huntingdon always have participated in the wars of their country, with the young men into service and the women who remained at home doing their share to help.

The most tragic period of the entire history of the town, however, was that covered by the years of War Between The States, 1861-1865. In this bloody conflict, families were divided in their allegiance, relatives and neighbors fought against one another. Townsfolks also suffered greatly from the depredations of marauders.

In February, 1861, there was a mass meeting of the citizens of Carroll County in Court House Square at which the following report, signed by Isaac Hawkins, Alvin Hawkins, Dr. Bell and A.B. Hall, was read and adopted.

"That we are in favor of the seceding states being restored to their allegiance to the government of the United States, peaceably, if possible, but forcibly in necessary."

Following this mass meeting, it is said that those who favored the south left through the south gate and those in favor of the north left by the north gate.

Finally, on June 8, 1861, the people of Tennessee voted on the ques-

tion of secession. The vote for all of West Tennessee was 28,265 in favor, 7,168 opposed. Carroll County registered a vote of 1,349 against secession to 967 for.

At one point during the controversy, a lady who lived across from the Court House, in what was then a residential area, watched a man placing a flag in the Court House yard. Having sons fighting in both Union and Confederate Armies, this mother, not one to mince words, marched forth, axe in hand, saying heatedly: "I have boys fighting on both sides and no so-and-so is going to raise a flag in front of my door!" With that, she chopped down the flag.

But the wounds of the War Between The States were eventually healed and the people of Huntingdon and Carroll County returned to a more or less normal way of life.

Since then, there have been other wars in which many of our citizens have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. But never again has there been a conflict so crucial, so painful to the heart of our Southland as the War Between The States -- not only were families disunited, brother pitted against brother, but many of the bloodiest battles took place practically in our own front yards.

Marriages

was made by a young man who said he wanted to marry his stepmother. This puzzled the Clerk, so he had a lawyer advise him as to whether there was any law against such an arrangement. After searching through his books and finding nothing of relevance, the lawyer announced: "I suppose the people who made the laws thought there was no stepmother who would be fool enough to marry her stepson and no stepson who would be fool enough to marry his stepmother." The license was issued.

Roads, Sidewalks, and Highways

The first real road, if it may be called, constructed to link Huntingdon with other points, was the trail to Jackson, completed in 1831 along the route of the old stage road. The stage road, of course, as was the case of thoroughfares linking Huntingdon to such places as McLemoresville, actually was little more than a dirt pathway, only wide enough for one-lane traffic of stage coaches, horses, mules and the like.

The first streets inside the town were dusty byways and it was years before they were covered with gravel and, later, paved. In the early days, the Huntingdon streets gave forth so much dust around Court House Square that they were watered down during the hot months. Later, there was a water wagon which moved through the town, sprinkling the streets in residential areas.

There were no sidewalks at the beginning, only dirt paths from here to there, with the town finally putting plank walks in certain places where it was difficult to navigate. Soon after Southern Normal University was opened in 1891, for example, the local newspapers led the progress shown when the town put down plank walks at some otherwise inaccessible areas near the school.

The better roads and streets began to come in the early 1920s, at which time highway workers were brought in from various parts of the state to make the roads wider and more useable. There was a shortage of eligible bachelors in town at this time, so quite a few Huntingdon girls made friends with and later married highway workers.

Today, Huntingdon is linked with many places by well-paved roads and highways. Route 22 leads to McKenzie and other points in one direction and to Lexington and elsewhere in the other. Route 77 leads from Huntingdon to Paris and places beyond in one direction and to Atwood, Milan, Gibson and Humboldt in another. Route 70 runs to Nashville in one direction and Jackson in the other, while Route 70-A leads to McLemoresville and other points. Super-highway 40, running between Nashville and Memphis and other points, is only 15 miles out from Huntingdon on the Lexington Highway, or 22 South.

As this 1986 revision of THE HUNTINGDON STORY is being completed, steps are underway to greatly improve state highways in and around the Huntingdon area, as well as elsewhere in Tennessee. A major, state-wide highway improvement and expansion program is to be financed through funds realized from a recently approved 4-cent-a-gallon increase in the gasoline tax of Tennessee.

Initially, funds already have been approved and a contract awarded for a \$434,000 project involving the resurfacing of about 6.5 miles

of Highway 22 from McKenzie to Huntingdon which would place that roadway considerably closer to the spot where plans call for the building of a Carroll County Airport. Studies, surveys and designs for Highway 22 from McKenzie to Huntingdon are to be performed during 1986-89, with construction work possibly beginning during the year 1988-89. Two other projects called for in Carroll County would turn Highway 22 South into a four-lane highway also from Huntingdon to Clarksburg. And then from Clarksburg to Parker's Crossroads. Upon completion of these projects, there would be a four-lane highway all the way from McKenzie, through Huntingdon, to Parker's Crossroads and, of course, Highway 1-40.

Meantime, the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation already has tried to help solve a major traffic problem for Huntingdon at the western end of the town. Highway 70 West has been turned into a three-lane thoroughfare from near Thomas Park to just beyond the intersection of 70 and by-pass. This third lane is intended chiefly for the use of motorists planning to turn off 70 to the right or to the left.

State authorities ruled that there would be no point in installing traffic lights anywhere along this area for there are openings for motorists to turn in and out to too many places along 70 and this area. The State authorities considered there was no point along this area where the installation of a traffic light would serve any useful purpose.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in the area of Huntingdon in the early days was chiefly by courtesy of "Shank's Mare" - that is, on foot, by horse and/or mule-back. For public transportation, there were stage coaches, and the more prosperous people had spring wagons. Then came carriages, buggies and, finally, elaborately designed surreys which looked for all the world like hearses because of their lavishly fringed tops.

With the building of the railroad, stage coach travel ceased and transportation by horse and mule-drawn conveyances was reduced to a minimum, especially for those going long distances. Work on the railroads had started in various parts of Carroll County prior to the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, and by that time limited service was operational in some parts of the county. It was not until after the close of the war, however, about 1868, that railroad lines running through Huntingdon were completed.

In due time, the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad Company was running four passenger trains through Huntingdon daily, two headed for Union City and two bound for what then was known as Hollow Rock Junction, the ultimate destination being Paducah, Kentucky. At Bruceton, as Hollow Rock Junction now is called, changes were made for Nashville and Memphis.

For some time, there also were two part-freight and part-passenger trains, complete with cabooses, passing through Huntingdon each night, one going in each direction. And, of course, there always were several freights daily and nightly after the train service officially began.

The railroad through Huntingdon was built mostly by "shanty Irish" laborers, brought into the United States from the old country. Those working here had a camp where Council Pond is now located; that pond, incidentally, having been formed by excavations made to build up the roadbed for the railroad tracks.

Coming here to practice medicine in 1865, after the close of the Civil War, Dr. W.N. Wright, grandfather of the late Neill Wright, was summoned to the camp many times to patch up the rowdy Irish laborers. They seemed to take pride in the fact that they entertained themselves over the weekends by drinking and fighting, so there was great need of Dr. Wright's services.

Almost weekly, with lantern in one hand and medicine case in the other, the good doctor would repair to the labor camp to bind the wounds and otherwise minister to the needs of the self-styled "Fighting Irish." As a staunch old-timer, apparently his dedication to his profession was as strong as their boasted allegiance to rum, rowdyism and rough-housing.

During the long period that there was passenger train service through Huntingdon, the railroad station, or depot as most people called it, was a scene of much activity each time a passenger train was scheduled to arrive. This was especially true when the 5 o'clock afternoon train was due from Union City or the 6 o'clock train from Bruceton and other points. Dozens of persons would congregate at the depot, whether they had business there or not.

THOMAS PARK

The small plot of ground adjacent to the old Huntingdon depot was not precisely an eyesore, but it was by no means an enticing show-window for the town of Huntingdon. It consisted of a little more than an acre of hard-packed clay, innocent of trees or vegetation of any sort. Certainly there was nothing about it to indicate to the passing traveler that behind this dreary facade lay a proud, rapidly-growing community made up of attractive homes and warm-hearted, down-to-earth people.

In August, 1906, feeling that the town was not putting its best foot forward, a group of public-spirited women banded together to form the Civic Improvement Club. There were thirty members, and the club's expressed objective was the beautification of their beloved home town. Appropriately enough, they chose for their first major project the reclamation of the barren area near the depot, heretofore unappealing to newcomers, visitors, and travelers passing through.

And so it was that Thomas Park was born. It was named for a Mr. Thomas who at that time was president of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad Company. The civic-minded women, it is said, sweet-talked the Railroad into donating the land, gravel for walks, and several park benches. They, themselves, cleaned the place up with their bare hands, planted trees, flowers and shrubbery, while the town of Huntingdon provided free lights and water.

Although little used nowadays, Thomas Park still exists -- a living monument to a small group of women who dared to dream of a permanent beauty spot that everyone could use and enjoy -- and who were willing to work with their hands to make that dream come true.

Even though, as stated earlier, Thomas Park continues to be little used, the women of Huntingdon nevertheless have continued their efforts to improve it in every way possible while hoping to encourage its usage. Perhaps, in time, their efforts will pay dividends.

Considerable amounts were spent on Thomas Park again in 1985 and early 1986. Improvements have included the erection of a most attractive gazebo in memory of a deceased resident whose wife

donated the necessary funds. New walkways have been placed in the park, new flower beds have been planted, a large number of small trees also have been planted and other improvements made. Everyone agrees Thomas Park now looks beautiful.

On the sad side, however, is the fact that an area of land near Thomas Park, on the railroad right-of-way and covering an area where the old Huntingdon depot was located until it was torn down, frequently is in such a condition as to detract from the appearance of the general neighborhood and thus from that of the park. This area of land periodically is used as a place for the loading and unloading of items brought in or to be shipped out. From time to time, large sections of trees are placed there to be cut into shorter logs, and bark from these become scattered around the area. Sometimes short logs are left there scattered around for long periods of time. Further, high grass and weeds also are found growing there now and then. The area thus creates an unsightly appearance near Thomas Park.

At present, it is the members of the Huntingdon Women's Garden Club who have been, during recent years, devoting a great deal of time, efforts, and money to help beautify the town by their improvements at Thomas Park and elsewhere. In addition to taking on Thomas Park as a continuing project, the members of this club also have taken on a further project. This is the job of beautifying an area along Highway 22 at the entranceway to Huntingdon, coming from McKenzie.

At that entranceway -- Highway 22 North and the intersection with the By-Pass as it runs from McLeMORESville Road to High Street -- there is an island area dividing that portion of Highway 22 as it leads toward McKenzie from that portion leading toward Huntingdon. Members of the Women's Garden Club of Huntingdon have done a considerable amount of planting also in this island area, and, from now on, this area also should progressively take on a more attractive appearance.

Passenger Train Service Ended

Passenger train service to and through Huntingdon was discontinued on January 2, 1953. On that date, at the invitation of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, successors to the old N.C. and St.L., a delegation of Huntingdon citizens, headed by the incumbent Mayor Robert ("Bob") Murray, were guests for a last ride to Union City. There, Neill Wright was the principal speaker at a special ceremony marking the end of a passenger service for Huntingdon and Carroll County.

Finally, in April, 1967, the old Huntingdon depot was reported by the local newspapers as being for sale or rent. Part of the building was dismantled, while the remainder was sold for use nearby off Highway 70 leading towards Nashville. That part of the building still stands at that location, near Huntingdon.

Many residents purchased bricks from the railroad station's walks and platforms. These bricks, said to have been imported from Germany, now can be found in various parts of town where they are being used for yard walks, foundations and patios.

In time, the railroad company replaced the old depot with a small steel shack, which many of the townfolks considered an eye sore. They would have preferred to see the old structure, which held so many fond memories, left standing, undisturbed. To the delight of Huntingdon residents, the small steel shack finally was removed.

There are several amusing stories connected with Huntingdon's passenger train service and the old depot. One involves a young woman who made friends by corresponding with men through a lonely hearts organization listed in a city newspaper. It was said that she made the acquaintance of potential suitors, and that quite a few visited her here. According to grapevine rumors, she frequently was seen putting one departing male friend on the front of a passenger

train and then running to the rear to greet a newly arrived one. Finally, however, she made contact with a young man living in Miami, who fell for her immediately upon seeing her photograph.

Obviously a fast worker, he struck out at once for Huntingdon, arriving one afternoon in a rather dishevelled condition following his long journey. Undaunted, he explained his predicament to the station agent, inquiring if there was some place where he could clean up before meeting his lady love.

He was given water, soap and a towel and told he might perform his ablutions behind a bale of cotton in the freight room. A short time later he emerged neatly shaved and flawlessly dressed in what appeared to be all-new clothing. A few days later he reappeared at the depot with his newly acquired bride and her mother, bought three tickets to Miami and took them back there to live, happily ever after, it is hoped.

Then, there was the night when several depot employees decided to have some fun with Teb Kee, the friendly, round station porter and jack of all trades, who among other chores, opened up the place in the early mornings. The freight room, it seems, had several empty caskets awaiting a pick-up. One was taken into the office and placed on a table just behind the entrance railing. Shortly before Teb was due, one of the plotters was heavily powdered about the face, and placed in the casket with arms folded as though in death. His co-conspirators hid elsewhere and waited for Teb to open the door and enter.

Teb appeared soon afterwards. When he saw the casket and its gruesome contents, he raced out of the depot and ran down the railroad tracks to his home, where he proceeded to collapse. It took several days to convince him that this had been nothing more than a joke and to persuade him to return to work.

Homecoming '86 Passenger Train Rides

Although, as indicated earlier, passenger train service ended for Huntingdon and Carroll County in 1953 with that final ride to Union City, those who wanted it were offered a further chance at a passenger train ride for Homecoming '86.

Through arrangements made by officials of nearby Bruceton, Tennessee, with the Seaboard Systems Railroad Company, present owners of the railroad lines in this area, plans were completed for free passenger train rides to be given at three different times on the first Sunday of May, 1986, from Bruceton to McKenzie and return. Tickets for the free rides were made available from Bruceton on a first come, first served basis, and there were very heavy demands for tickets.

Hoping to be able to get a train ride on this special occasion,

parents, with their children in tow, began to line up for one of the free train rides as early as around 6 o'clock in the morning. That was the case even though the first free ride was not scheduled to start until 10 a.m., three hours after the line began forming.

Many persons seeking to get a free train ride were not successful in their efforts. This, of course, was because there was no way that it would have been possible to provide enough passenger cars and special rides in one full day to accommodate all of those who arrived in Bruceton seeking a ride. People came in large numbers from pretty much all over West Tennessee and some even from points further away. It was estimated that the crowds in Bruceton totaled more than 10,000 people.

AUTOMOBILES

There are several different versions as to when the first horseless carriage appeared in Huntingdon. According to one story, the first automobile making its appearance here was a car belonging to Dr. Ramsey, a McKenzie druggist. Proud to have been one of the first owner's of such a vehicle in his own town, Dr. Ramsey decided to bring his prized possession to the 1907 County Fair in Huntingdon.

With a hired mechanic calculated to cope with any emergency, Dr. Ramsey started out early one morning on the long, rough trip to Huntingdon, but he did not quite make it. The car broke down on the way and the mechanic could not get it started again, so he and Dr. Ramsey continued their journey on foot.

One of Dr. Ramsey's sons decided to remain behind and see if he could get the vehicle started and, after tinkering with it for some time, he succeeded. Then he continued the drive to Huntingdon. En route, he is said to have met a wagon drawn by a team of mules. The team became so frightened that it bolted and ran away, throwing the driver to the ground, whereupon the driver lit off in one direction while the mules, unperturbed, continued their mad race in the other.

Perhaps Dr. Ramsey's automobile never made it all the way to Huntingdon, for a copy of the Tennessee Republican, dated June 5, 1908, reported the first automobile, or "Buck Board", was put on the streets here around that time by one R. C. Clift. That story said, in part:

"Huntingdon is putting on city airs now. For the first time, an automobile has made its appearance. The gasoline wagon, or 'horseless carriage', the first vehicle of its kind to turn a wheel on Huntingdon's new streets, is the property of Robert A. Clift, the electric supply salesman. It arrived Monday from Martin, where it was purchased by Mr. Clift, and its advent into the city created great interest."

"The machine is an Orient Buck Board of three horse-power, with a speed of about 30 miles per hour. The old laundry building has been converted into a garage and some repairs are being made on the 'buzz wagon' before it is put on the streets. Mrs. Clift has charge of the machine and will, no doubt, make an excellent 'chauffeuse'."

Following the story was an editorial note, which said, "With the automobile races around Court House Square, won't the next Fair be a peach!"

Still another story reports that it was in June, 1910, when the first car license was issued to a citizen of Huntingdon. According to this story, on the Sunday morning following the issuance of the license, a Mr. and Mrs. Black, riding in a buggy, met this gentleman in his Maxwell coming around the Square. Mr. Black's horse became frightened, ran away, and Mr. and Mrs. Black were killed.

This story concludes with the statement: "This tragic affair caused great excitement, and the city board met and discussed whether or not they would ever allow anyone to drive through the town in an automobile."

Obviously the town authorities did not vote to ban automobiles. This means of transportation was here to stay and, in time, more and more purchased cars. And, as also might be expected, there are several humorous stories involving some of these early automobiles.

There is one about how Ora Gooch, one of the early car owners, started driving around Court House Square with a passenger-friend who was somewhat lame and always used a cane. Mr. Gooch, it seems, forgot how to stop the vehicle, so the machine kept going around and around the Square, while shop-keepers raced behind it, shouting hopeful but unhelpful instructions. Meanwhile, the passenger, who now wanted nothing more than to get out of this outlandish contraption, was becoming more and more distraught.

When the car finally did stop, having run out of gas, Ora's disgruntled travelling companion jumped out, abandoning his cane, and ran across the Square. He never again used the cane for walking purposes, it is said, his lame leg having apparently been cured through the not so simple expedient of shock and righteous indignation.

There is also a story involving Dr. J.B. Cox, for many years a respected physician here, and his first automobile. Prior to acquiring the car, Dr. Cox made all his calls by means of horse and buggy, a hired man doing the driving.

Upon receiving his car, Dr. Cox took it out in his large front yard on Main Street with the idea of teaching his man how to drive it. With prideful know-how, the doctor pointed out that the vehicle had three pedals, one marked "R" for reverse, one marked "C" for clutch, and one marked "B" for brake. After explaining at considerable length, he announced with confidence, that he would give a demonstration.

Then, while the hired man stood watching, Dr. Cox climbed inside the unfamiliar vehicle and started out. Almost immediately he found himself headed towards a young elm tree. Just before he struck the tree, he stepped - and hard - on what he believed to be the proper pedal. But the car, apparently having mind of its own, refused to obey his irate order to stop. Instead, like a bucking broncho, it crashed into the helpless tree, bounced back, then repeated the unholy performance several times before the frustrated physician managed to get it under control. When, finally, the vehicle became motionless - evidently of its own accord - Dr. Cox stepped out, resolved now to forget about teaching someone else to drive. Later he told friends: "I have enough trouble operating the ornery critter myself. After all, I'm a doctor - not a magician!"

The first automobile brought still further problems to Huntingdon. They diverted the attention of school children from their class work as they chugged past the school house. Every time an automobile approached the youngsters would spring from their seats and rush to a window to see the horseless carriage go by. There seemed to be no way of stopping them, and the effect was demoralizing to say the least. To combat this problem, school authorities ordered the lower sashes painted so as to shut out the distracting view.

Learning to drive was indeed something of a problem in the early days. There were no driving schools as there are today. One could, of course, get basic information or "instructions" from other owners, or from dealers when buying a car. But such instructions were limited and soon forgotten. So most people were obliged to learn the hard way, in the privacy of their own yards, in an obscure alley or on some infrequently traveled country road.

In learning to operate the hard way, there were numerous instances of drivers backing into fences, hitting the side of houses or barns, or running smack-dab into trees. Generally speaking, however, there were few major catastrophes, for the early automobiles did not have much power and when the vehicle hit something it usually did so rather politely and gently, and then bounced back.

Automobiles bought by people in Huntingdon at first were obtained in other towns, but in time dealerships were opened locally. The Tennessee Republican, of August 12, 1929, for example, chronicled that a "blushing bevy of beautiful Fords" had arrived in town.

Early records show that there were 35 automobiles registered in Carroll County in 1915, as compared to over 35,000 motor vehicle licenses issued in the county in 1965. Of the 35 registered in 1915, eight owners had Huntingdon addresses; Whitthorne, two; Atwood, two; Yuma, one; McKenzie, seven; Trezvant, five; Lavinia, seven; Hollow Rock, one; Cedar Grove, one; and Spring Creek, one.

TRANSPORTATION TODAY

Passenger transportation in the area of Huntingdon today is chiefly by privately owned automobile, with many families having two or more cars. The days of the horse and wagon, the buggy, the surrey and, finally, the passenger train are but fading memories of a past that will never return.

Today there continues to be a Greyhound bus service into and out of Huntingdon, running between this town and Jackson, Memphis and Nashville, and providing connections for runs to any part of the United States. Air service also is available from various nearby cities. From Nashville or Memphis, travelers may obtain flights direct or make connections for flights to any large city in the United States,

or for flights going outside the United States. Passengers train service also is still available from a very limited number of places within the state.

Shipments, on the other hand, are made or received via the continuing freight train service of the Seaboard Systems Railroad Company, as well as by Greyhound Bus Company, or the facilities of a number of large trucking companies. The Postal Service also continues to handle incoming and outgoing parcel post packages, and the United States Parcel Service also serves Huntingdon. In addition, there are further companies now providing special rush and registered parcel and mail delivery services.



Judge James England, right, swears in the present county officials in September, 1982. They are, from left: District Attorney General Robert (Gus) Radford, General Sessions Judge Larry Logan, Register of Deeds Judy M. Baker, Trustee

Walter Butler, County Clerk James McLemore, County Superintendent of Schools Larry D. Vick, Circuit Court Clerk Richard Simmons, Assessor of Property Joel Collins, Sheriff Joe Parker, and Carroll County Executive Wesley Beal Jr.

FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Huntingdon today has modern fire-fighting equipment and it has had for many years. But, in the very early days, there were no fire-fighting facilities whatsoever for fighting fires.

If your house or place of business caught on fire, it was just too bad. However, earnest efforts were made to extinguish the blaze by members of volunteer bucket brigades.

Following the bucket brigades, the town acquired equipment in the form of several two-wheeled carts which were housed in shacks in various parts of the town. If a fire alarm sounded, those nearest these shacks would rush out of their home or places of business and pull the carts to the scene of the fire.

The two-wheeled carts had a center shaft around which the hose was wrapped. When the volunteers arrived at the scene of the fire, they would unwrap the hose, connect it to the fire hydrants, then start to work.

The water pressure normally was so low and weak at the beginning that the fire generally got out of control before members of the brigade could get much water on the blaze. Thus, most places that caught fire burned down, despite efforts being made to save them. This was true especially if the fire had made much headway before being discovered or before the firemen arrived.

Back in 1930, it is said, all sorts of steps were taken to try to raise money for purchasing a good fire truck for Huntingdon. Even the school children pitched in to help raise funds. Sue Jolly, the wife of John H. Jolly, was one of the school's expression teachers, and she worked with a group to put on a special play. Members of the cast included Lillian Crider Holland, Mattie Lee Kee, William Jolly and quite a few others. The play served to raise a reasonably good sum.

ELECTRICITY

It was around the turn of the century, it is understood, that Huntingdon began to get its first electric lights. Old records contained in a book, which was in possession of the late Mrs. John B. Dill, carried entries listing the names of customers, beginning in 1901, of the old Huntingdon Electric Light and Water Works. This company at that time provided electric service, water and, in one case, steam for a steam laundry that was in operation in the town for a short period and which was located near the plant.

Mrs. Dill's husband, John, was a long-time employee of the Huntingdon Electric Light and Water Works and the book gives handwritten entries including the names of early customers and the amount each was assessed for service.

This book shows that charges for electricity in those days were based on the candle power of the bulbs a person had in use at his home or place of business, not on metered usage. Electric bills at that time were very low, ranging from around 65 cents per month for some homes to a high of \$4.25 per month (later reduced to \$3.00) for the Bank of Huntingdon.

Early electric customers included seven saloons - increased to eight by 1902.

The old Huntingdon electric and power plant was built at a cost of about \$18,000.00 and, at the beginning, the arc and incandescent light were both used for street lighting, the former being used in the town's business district. The streets of the town were considered well lighted, much better than in some towns of larger population.

For a number of years, electric service was available only during the evenings and even the street lights were shut off at midnight. At first, the lights came on at sundown and service was available until midnight only. Later they remained operative from darkness until dawn, and finally 24-hours a day.

With electric power finally available through the day, residents began discarding do-it-yourself items and replacing them with electrical appliances as they came into being. One of the old items first discarded was the flatiron which first was heated in the fireplace and later by placing hot charcoal inside it.

When the first radio came into Huntingdon as the property of

a Main Street resident, it attracted much attention. Friends and neighbors, along with their children, hurried over to see and hear the radio when broadcasts came on only during the early evening. Since the first radio had no loudspeaker and only one set of earphones, the owner and his family seldom got a chance to enjoy the set themselves unless they remained up until around midnight, after all the guests had departed, and listened to the sign-off program of "The Chicago Night Hawks."

Water from the old Electric Light and Water Works was pumped from two wells which contained both sulphur and iron and the water frequently ran red, making it unsuitable for washing clothing. Rain or creek water was used as a substitute.

People who did not like the taste of iron or sulphur soon got used to it and expressed a preference for "mineral-charged" drinking water. However, there were occasional city visitors who claimed drinking it gave them the runs. At any rate, the healthfulness of the water supply was considered unquestionable, and that was a matter about which just about every citizen of the town was ready to boast.

The town also had an ice plant from which residents could obtain pieces of ice of varying sizes for a very low cost. Occasionally, persons living near the plant would bring down tins of fruit, such as peaches or pears, and ask that they be placed in a freezer, thus creating a tasty, if slightly unorthodox dessert.

They tell a story involving the late R.A. Greene, of the Tennessee Republican with reference to the town's electric light system. Mr. Greene, it seems, worked late one night at his office and became confused in the darkness when the street lights went off at midnight as he was walking home.

According to the story, Mr. Greene stopped for a few moments to get his bearings. About that time he heard a tapping of a cane and stood still as he was approached by Robert Newmann, the town's blind piano tuner.

When Mr. Greene admitted that he was confused by the sudden absence of lights, Mr. Newmann, who was no stranger to darkness, laughed and exclaimed: "Never mind. Grab hold of my arm and I'll show you the way home!"

County Fair

The Carroll County Fair, now held yearly in Huntingdon, came as the outgrowth of an idea of the old Huntingdon Commercial Club, which felt there should be an annual event dedicated to the local creative and industrial affairs.

A Fair had been held in McKenzie in 1855, but there was none for a number of years afterwards until it was decided to hold one in Huntingdon in 1906. According to an article in the Tennessee Republican by the late Richard Greene, this Fair was held after only three weeks of preparation. It was staged on the Court House Square, thus dispossessing, for the time being, the so-called Sons of Rest, whose favorite hanging out place was the Old Court House lawn.

An "old fiddlers contest" and square-dancing were among the main attractions. Reportedly, Will Priest, Connie Priestly and Ivy Teachout were the most gifted and tireless swingers. One evening, according to a history of Huntingdon written by the late Alida Townes, while the trio was having the time of their lives among the square dancers, an interested spectator turned to Felix Teachout and said: "Boy, oh-boy - look at that old woman dance! Who is she?" "That's no old woman," Felix retorted huffily. "That's my mother!"

With carbide flares for outside lighting, the W. I. Swain's show provided nightly entertainment at some of the first Fairs, giving performances of such old tear-jerking melodramas as "Lena Rivers," "Which One Should I Marry," "The Younger Brothers," "Jesse James," and "The Two Orphans."

During and in advance of these shows, there were musical interludes. Most of the W. I. Swain shows followed the same pattern, dealing with nasty old villains who were about to foreclose a mortgage on the beautiful young heroine and her aged parents until the handsome, well-heeled hero made his dramatic appearance and saved the day.

More than one wide-eyed Huntingdon youngster, touched by the sad plight of the blonde heroine, begged his parents to adopt the unhappy child, take her home. But then, how were these innocents to know about the snare and delusion later to become known as "make-up?" How were they to guess that the "poor child" would never see forty again?

Every so often, between acts, the august Mr. Swain, a portly, pompous individual, would step out on the stage to bow deeply and wax eloquent on the various glories of his host community. Huntingdon, he would pontificate, was without a doubt the finest, friendliest town in all America. All through the year he looked forward to his yearly visit to the fine community. "It's like coming home," he would add. Then he would turn to his star violinist and say: "And now, Miss Sellers, what are we going to play for our dear Huntingdon friends?" Whereupon Miss Sellers would oblige with a dramatic rendition of Dixie or Star Spangled Banner, or something equally appropriate.

After the Fair was over and the show had departed, the young people of Huntingdon would search through the Square for pieces of unused carbide which they brought home to make their own flaring

lights, much to the dismay of parents and neighbors.

W. L. Noel was the motivating spirit of the first Fair in Huntingdon, and Judge W. W. Murray was vice-president. The late Jeff J. Banks, of Trezevant, and Neill Wright were on the Board of Directors.

The second Fair, in 1907, was a much larger and more successful function with some of the Court House rooms being used for the exhibition of agricultural products, baked goods, needlework, and home-canned items. The grand opening for this Fair featured a musical extravaganza put on by Professor Hunziker's Concert Band. The Hickman, KY., Concert Band also provided music, with three or four performances daily.

One of the premiums for the parade opening the Fair of 1907 was a five-dollar gold piece to the young man having the jolliest and prettiest group of young ladies in one vehicle. Reportedly, there were two competing floats for this prize, one containing a bevy of young ladies who called themselves the "Peaches" and the other a group calling themselves the "Belles." The vehicles used for the floats were large wagons profusely decorated with crepe paper streamers and flowers.

Mr. Noel, after serving as organizer of the first Fair in Huntingdon, spent a total of thirty years with it as manager, seeking to improve it each year until he died and others took over.

After the County Fair was held around the Court House for a number of years, it was moved to Edwards Park. Unfortunately, there proved to be major difficulties in holding it there, the same as there had been at least one difficulty in holding it on Court Square.

At the Court Square, the main problem was one of space. It was not possible to close down Court Square to all traffic without creating really serious traffic problems. On the other hand, after leaving sufficient space for traffic, there was little space to spare in the street for County Fair activities in between the curbs just outside the Court House and those at the end of the sidewalks opposite.

And so, when the County Fair was going full blast, traffic was moving here and there and pedestrians walking just about everywhere, there were problems.

At Edwards Park, there were no problems when it came to space. There was plenty of space there. However, Edwards Park then consisted of an area of low land, much of which turned into a real mud field anytime it rained. And there seemed to be a heavy downpour of rain at least one or so days or nights during the County Fair time. Even so, a great many persons still would visit the Fair and take part in the activities at Edwards Park, taking care to try to avoid sinking in mud spots but not really minding if they did.

Nevertheless, it always was believed that having the County Fair at Edwards Park frequently held down attendance, especially if there had been rain.

And yet, even at Edwards Park, the County Fair generally attracted several thousand persons during its run.

NEW FAIR GROUNDS

In recent years, the Carroll County Fair has been held at the county's comparatively new Carroll County Fair Grounds. These grounds are located off Highway 70 East (leading towards Nashville) at the western edge of Huntingdon in behind the large Carroll County Civic Center. There is sufficient space at that area for holding any county fair as large as it might be expected would ever be held at this county seat.

There is plenty of space for all types of stands offering games of chance, plenty of space for amusement rides, side shows, and just about anything else that might go with a county fair. There are building structures where food may be prepared and sold, benches on which to sit while eating, and more. There also are buildings where all types of exhibits might be displayed for judging, a building where animals may be shown, also suitable lavatory facilities.

In addition, the fair grounds area adjoins the Carroll County Civic Center, thus making use of that large building available for whatever purpose it might be needed. Then, finally, there are extremely large parking areas for accommodating an almost unlimited number of automobiles.

The County Fair, over the years, has grown bigger and better. It now has the domestic arts department in which embroidery, crochet, knitted goods, miscellaneous articles, quilts and bedspreads, table

cloths and napkins, baby outfits and a variety of other such items are shown. There are floral, culinary, livestock, dairy, fields crop, and horticulture departments, school exhibits, and exhibits of creative art, a horse show and other events. In addition, there are contests for selecting "Little Miss Carroll County," "The Fairest of the Fair," and a baby show.

General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, realizing the educational value of agricultural fairs in the state, appropriates money to be allocated by the State Department of Agriculture to the fair associations of the state to supplement premiums paid for agricultural exhibits. For the purpose of further encouraging fairs to excel in their usefulness to their respective areas, a merit award provision also is made in the appropriation.

The midway of the Fair has rides of all kinds for the children, an assortment of food and sweet stands, a bingo stand and many others where one may try his skill at this or that and, possibly, win a prize. The Fair now is officially opened following a large parade, which begins on the Court House Square. This is primarily a School Parade, with the PTAs, Schools, Scouts, Clubs and Bands of the County taking part. Businesses, of course, may sponsor floats.

Finally, State aid to the County Fair is now a possibility. The

Court Houses

The small log 1822 Court House in Huntingdon was used only for a short time. In 1824 it was sold to John Crockett, who moved onto its premises and used it for a kitchen. The second Seat of Justice, a frame house, 20 by 24 feet, stood until 1830 when it was sold and replaced by a brick structure, 30 by 50 feet. In 1884, a third Court House was constructed with a rock foundation and brick superstructure. That building, which was two stories high, was remodeled in 1928, but later was destroyed by fire in February, 1931. Work on the present Court House was started a few months later. The cost was about \$100,000.00.

Considerable sums again have been put into the present Court House since 1971 - 1972, when **THE HUNTINGDON STORY** first

was written. The Court House building was given a complete sand-blasting job and many improvements were made to the inside of the structure. Later, the sidewalks around the building were removed through the assistance of the Town of Huntingdon and new sidewalks and curbs were put in by the county government.

Since the State of Tennessee also cleared, lowered the area for paving the streets around the Court House and also repaved that area, the extremely clean looking Court House presents an excellent picture now as one approaches the structure from any of the streets entering the square. The grounds around the structure also have been re-worked and add greatly to the appearance.

Movies In Huntingdon

The first motion pictures to be shown in Huntingdon were silents and they were projected for a long period of time under the direction of "Miss Linnie" Carter, who also was superintendent of Oak Hill Cemetery. For several years, the movies were shown in the old Court House, with the portion of the building used being called "The Court House Theater."

At first, the movies were shown on Friday and Saturday nights only, in the second floor of the Court Room, which, naturally, was not used at night for Court purposes. Friday nights were known as Society Nights for the showing of the more elaborate productions starring such persons as Theda Bara, etc., while Saturday nights were chiefly for youngsters and featured westerns. On the evening there was to be a performance, a large screen, installed behind the Judge's bench, would be pulled down and the audience would sit on hard wooden benches which were arranged on a graduated platform in a sort of balcony effect. The projectionist's booth had been built high up above the benches.

Miss Linnie had on her staff a very good piano player who would regale the audience with a series of popular tunes before the picture came over the screen. Then, as the film progressed, she would play appropriately, according to what was being shown on the screen. There would be funeral music if some tragedy was being enacted, gay music if the scene was cheerful, blood-and-thunder music if there were fighting Cowboys and Indians, romantic music for love scenes.

Many youngsters attended these movies and, from time to time, they would start giggling and yak-yaking, which was undoubtedly annoying to the older people in the audience. If the chattering became too loud, Miss Linnie would order the projectionist to stop his machine, the pianist to discontinue her playing. Then the lights would flash on and Miss Linnie would run out in front of the audience and announce she would not continue the "picture show" as it was called, until there was order in the Court Room.

Some of the towns older and more daring boys, however, were not to be outdone. When it became known that Miss Linnie, in the interest of population control, was having a pet cat castrated they decided to play a prank. Coralling a disreputable-looking alley cat, they tossed it through an open window at the time when the unforgettable Theda Bara was emoting on the screen and shocked spectators were asking themselves and one another: "Will she - or won't she?"

The answer was never known. As the cat raced around the place meowing and trying to find its way out, Miss Linnie stopped the show and announced that, as far as she was concerned, the evening performance was over and done with.

Later, the Court Theater was moved to its present location. Now, in addition to this closed-in theater, Huntingdon has access to a number of open-air drive-ins in the area. Persons willing to do some driving to get to a theater may have a choice of any one of several by going to Jackson or Paris.

JAILS

The first jail in Huntingdon was built in 1824 on a lot a short distance down the street from where the First Baptist Church now stands at 108 Paris Street South. It was as very small, hewed-log cabin, from which prisoners frequently escaped. The second jail was built in the western part of the town later and sold, in time, for use as a home.

The next jail built was a two-story brick and concrete block structure, also built down the street from where the Baptist Church is located, but this time on the opposite side of the street from the first small jail. A brick house also was built on the adjoining lot for use of the sheriff and his family.

The two-story jail building deteriorated considerably as time passed and also was the scene of a number of escapes by prisoners through the years. In 1971, the building underwent some repairs and improvements after a county grand jury declared it to be in extremely poor shape.

The late Edgar Woods, of Huntingdon, was one of the first per-

sons ever locked up in the two-story jail building, which ultimately was torn down. Edgar was not, however, locked up for any offense. He, along with a group of other boys, was working on the structure as it was being built, cleaning used bricks at ten cents apiece.

When the building was just about completed, Edgar and a couple of the other youngsters working with him stepped into one of the cells to look it over. As a joke, the son of the contractor locked them inside and was some time before he released them.

Huntingdon, as the seat of Carroll County, now is the location of a completely modern and up-to-date Carroll County Jail, located off Highway 70 East, near the city limits. This jail, built chiefly with government grant funds in 1977, is considered to be just about as escape-proof as any such structure that might be built today. The old two-story brick jail building which was located near the First Baptist Church is no more. That structure was torn down, but the house originally built near it as a home for the sheriff and his family is still there, but no longer houses the sheriff.

Liquor

With the number of taverns in Huntingdon increasing steadily from the early days until 1902 when there were eight saloons, those who opposed the sale and use of alcoholic beverages waged a long battle to have them prohibited in the town. On one occasion, it is said that women members of the Christian Temperance Union held an all-night vigil in the Baptist Church to pray for the end of liquor in the town and county.

When, finally, in 1909, members of the 56th General Assembly voted to make liquor illegal in the State, their action was hailed by various publications and civic groups. One enterprising firm in Nashville put out a special poster, showing the members of the House and the Senate with the following legend or caption: "The Members

of the 56th General Assembly Who Destroyed The Liquor Traffic in Tennessee." There was no comment as to whether the pictured saloons were to be congratulated or censored. And, while the Town of Huntingdon has been "dry" for many years, the overall picture of liquor in the State of Tennessee still remains a controversial matter. It is legal in some parts of the State, illegal in others, and even stills are uncovered occasionally.

The sale of beer is permissible within the Town of Huntingdon both for on and off premise purposes, provided the dealer has a proper license. There are, of course, a number of restrictions with reference to the issuance of a license for selling beer.

Banks

The Bank of Huntingdon was the only full-service bank in this town when **THE HUNTINGDON STORY** originally was written in 1971-1972. This bank at that time had a main office, at its present location, and two drive-ins in Huntingdon as well as branches in Hollow Rock and Bruceton. Since 1972, the size of the main office in Huntingdon has been greatly expanded by the addition of an adjoining building and major improvements. In addition, the Hollow Rock branch now is in a modern building, a branch has been added in Clarksburg, and one of the two Huntingdon drive-ins also has been remodeled and increased in size.

The Bank of Huntingdon originally opened for business on October 14, 1887. Its first president was Carroll County Judge G. W. Humble, who served as president until his death in 1904. Others who served with this bank for many years were: Neill Wright, vice-president, who held the distinction for 63 years before retiring; the late Miss Nannie Payne, bookkeeper, whose years of service added up to fifty-five; W. E. Noles, cashier, who was with the bank for 50 years; and Frances Enochs Bush, who served with the bank for forty-six years.

For periods of time, the Bank of Huntingdon has had no competition in Huntingdon. After a first period with no competition, it had competition from what was known as The Farmer's State Bank, which was founded in 1915. That institution and the old Bank of Huntingdon were consolidated at the time of the big depression, and this led the Bank of Huntingdon again into more prosperous days as the town's single banking institution.

At another time, the Bank of Huntingdon had competition from the Old Citizen's Bank, but that institution was liquidated.

The Bank of Huntingdon moved into its modern (but then smaller than today) present quarters for its main offices in November, 1949, from a building nearby. A formal opening ceremony was held and large numbers of persons called to greet the officers and employees and get a first-hand look at the institution. That open house, it was estimated, attracted about 2,500 visitors. Another open house was held by the Bank of Huntingdon more recently after the bank expanded into what formerly was the Fowler Hardware Store, and it is estimated that a crowd visiting that day was even larger.

New local competition for the Bank of Huntingdon developed in June, 1973, when the Bank of McLemoresville, after having decided to open a branch in Huntingdon, started operating in a trailer as temporary headquarters pending the completion of its modern bank building, with drive-in window, at 132 West Main Street, a short distance from the Court House. The Bank of McLemoresville officially opened its new building in Huntingdon for business in September, 1974, also held an open house which was highly successful in that it attracted large numbers of visitors from throughout Carroll County.

In November, 1974, the Bank of McLemoresville occupied temporary quarters in McKenzie, following a decision which had been

made also to open a branch there. The bank's modern branch building in that city was completed and officially opened in February 1976.

The Bank of Huntingdon and the Bank of McLemoresville encountered competition from a third bank for a period of time -- the Carroll County Bank. Authorization was obtained for the opening of a third bank in Huntingdon and the Carroll County Bank eventually came into being, and, after construction work was completed, moved into and opened its modern bank building at 320 East Main Street.

The operation of the Carroll County Bank was somewhat short-lived, however. After being in operation for a few years, it was closed down by U. S. Government authorities, control of the assets and liquidation proceedings being undertaken by the U. S. Government.

Prison sentences eventually were imposed on some of those who had been connected with the Carroll County Bank, it being alleged that they were parties to fraudulent activities in connection with the institution's operation and lending practices.

Huntingdon now again has a third full service bank operating here. This is the Liberty Federal Savings Bank, which is now located at 320 East Main Street in the building formerly occupied by the Carroll County Bank. After a considerable amount of remodeling to turn that former bank building into a much more modern and updated facility to meet its needs, the Liberty Federal Savings Bank moved into its new location on February 1, 1986, and then had a highly-successful open house on April 13, 1986. Liberty Federal earlier had been located at 116 Lexington Street.

Liberty Federal's main offices are located in Paris, where that institution actually has offices at two separate locations. In addition to those two offices and the large one in Huntingdon, this bank also has branches in Waverly, Carden and McKenzie.

This financial institution originally opened offices in Carroll County, at Huntingdon and at McKenzie, a number of years ago, at which time it carried another name and was not considered a full-service banking operation, mainly a savings and loan association. However, it became a full service banking facility in 1983 after Congress, some times earlier, first had authorized an institution such as it was at that time to have NOW accounts.

Heading the Liberty Federal Savings Bank branch in Huntingdon is Randall P. Norden, who is vice-president and branch manager. Ray Smith is Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Huntingdon and William Lee Smothers is President and Chief Executive Officer. Billy Cary is Chairman of the Board and President of the Bank of McLemoresville, and Billy Tines is Executive Vice-President.

Still another financial institution in Huntingdon is the TransSouth Financial Services, at 860 East Main Street. This organization advertises that it loans money for appliances, cars, furniture, medical expenses, home improvements, education, vacations, or "almost anything."

Huntingdon Banks



G. W. Humble 8/13/1887- 11/21/1904



W. W. Murray 11/21/1904- 1/8/1908



J. Sam Johnson 3/15/33- 1/20/37



Neill Wright 8/24/37- 1/11/58



G. S. Funderburke 11/14/1947-2/18/67



Slyvester Killebrew
1/18/67

W. E. Nolles, long time
Bank Cashier



W. M. Carson 1/8/1908- 11/25/21



George T. McCall 11/25/1921-1/15/22



A. M. Lee 2/15/22- 2/22/33



George W. Parish, Cashier
of Farmers' and State
Bank 1915-33; Vice-president
of Huntingdon Bank 1933-55



W. E. Nolles, long time
Bank Cashier

Before There Was A Bank

Before any bank came into existence in the Huntingdon area, there were some well-to-do persons who would make personal loans here and there. And, in 1852, by his Last Will and Testament filed in that year, "Sandy" Hawkins made it possible for deserving younger men to borrow money.

In his Will, Hawkins requested, among other things, that \$5,000.00 be set aside and loaned out in sums of \$100.00 at six percent interest to "sober, industrious" young men. The Will went on to specify that at the expiration of fifty years the money was to be used in the

building of a school for young boys of Carroll County, between the ages of 14 and 18.

The fifty years expired in September, 1902, but, unfortunately, the \$5,000.00 had expired long before that time and the "Sandy" Hawkins school was never built. Hawkins, whose first name was Thomas, was the Huntingdon Postmaster from December 20, 1827 until he died in 1852, and it said that he never would, under any circumstances, permit even his most intimate friends to go behind the railing at the Post Office and into the sacrasant working area

Poor Farm

Carroll County owned and operated a poor farm out from Huntingdon from 1852 until about the mid-1970's. A total of 134 acres of land was purchased in 1852 for the purpose of operating such a farm as a place for poor people to be sent to live and with those able to do so working on the farm.

When purchased from one Thomas Butler, the acreage had some buildings, but they required work and were replaced immediately. The buildings were also improved again in 1877. Later, the original old log cabins were replaced with neat frame cottages. The farm itself was enlarged still later with the purchase, in 1886, of an additional 104 acres.

In the olden days, the number of inmates at the poor farm averaged about thirty. The county, meanwhile, also paid towards the support of about forty other persons who were residing with friends. In 1971, the number of residents at the poor farm having dwindled to four, there was considerable discussion, on the part of county officials, about the possibility of moving them into a nursing home or elsewhere and closing the poor farm and selling the property for reasons of economy.

Oddly enough, all the inmates begged to remain at the farm. To

them, it was home, the only home they had known for many years, perhaps ever in some cases. Without exception, each made it clear that they had rather remain at the poor farm than be moved into a nursing home or somewhere where more and better attention was possible.

The Magistrates of the Carroll County Court, in November, 1971, lent sympathetic ears to the pleas of the poor farm residents, realizing that such arbitrary uprooting would grieve and emotionally upset the helpless oldsters. Perhaps, the Magistrates reasoned, giving the four remaining poor house tenants more time in which to consider the possibility of eventually being moved would be the best temporary solution. Accordingly, it was decided to delay action on any transfer until a more detailed study could be made.

In time, however, it was voted to close down and sell the poor house area and its acreage and such a sale occurred. Meantime, Mrs. Mary Ann Herron, of the then State Department of Public Welfare, moved the three men and one woman remaining at the poor farm to other locations. The three men and one woman were first moved into boarding houses in McKenzie. Two of the men since have died and the third is in Care Inn in Camden. The woman, Clara Paschall, resides in a trailer off Spring Street in Huntingdon.

Office of the County Judge

The original office of the Judge of Carroll County was created by an Act of the State General Assembly of 1871, and G. W. Humble, whose father Jacob had come to the area in early 1822, was elected the first County Judge in 1872. He was re-elected into that office a number of times, serving about 30 years. Earlier, in 1860, he had been named a Justice of the Peace and had served in that capacity until he was elected County Judge.

Wilson Humble Enoch, of Huntingdon, became the second County Judge and served in that position for almost 31 years. He was

first elected in 1902, being re-elected in 1910 and 1918. In 1926, he left the Court to go into the insurance business in Huntingdon and continued in that work until he was re-elected Judge in 1934 for another eight-year term, serving until he died in December, 1941.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Mr. Enoch served as Magistrate for the Eleventh District for twelve years, and in 1896, he was elected Circuit Court Clerk.

Since the days of Judge Humble and Judge Enoch, the position has been filled by many other distinguished persons.

Churches

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was the first religious edifice to be erected in Huntingdon, but the date of which the structure was built is not known. The building was used from time to time by other denominations as well, while their groups were being organized and their churches built. The Church of Christ also came into being in the very early 1800's.

In 1840, there was an organized Methodist Society, and about 1870 the Methodists began meeting in a small building where the old church of Christ was located. The Baptist Church here was organized on January 1, 1889, while work began on setting up the Christian Church on May 21, 1889.

A later church of Christ building was erected in 1949 at 159 East Main Street on a site which formerly had been owned by the Christian Church. This property had been turned over to the church of Christ when the membership of the Christian Church became too small to function as an active organization. This building later was occupied for a number of years by the Tennessee State Department of Public Welfare, the name of which later was changed to the Department of Human Services. The Tennessee state-operated organization moved into the East Main Street building after the church of Christ, in 1966, occupied a further new building at 400 West Main Street.

The present Presbyterian Church was erected in 1910; the Baptist Church in 1956, and since has been greatly expanded. A new Methodist Church, off Highway 22 towards McKenzie, a short

distance beyond the intersection of East and West Paris Streets, was opened on September 20, 1970.

During a period that available space was shared by different religious groups, the old Christian Church congregation met in the mornings in their building and the church of Christ in the afternoons.

There also were young people who would go to the Methodist Church in the morning and sing with the choir to the accompaniment of organ or piano music and then in the afternoon they would adjourn to the church of Christ, which does not believe in the religious use of musical instruments, where they should sing along with the congregation under the direction of a devout if not always tune-conscious song-leader.

In the very early days before there were any churches in Huntingdon, itinerant preachers would go from place to place in the area and organize outdoor religious services.

Huntingdon now could well be called a town of two churches. In addition to having the churches already named, it also has a church of God, a Seventh Day Adventist Church, a Pentecostal Church, and, finally, a large number of other small churches occupying buildings here and there around town. Further, the colored people (or black people as they may prefer to be called today) also have churches of their own various denominations.

Education

The first school in Huntingdon, according to one source, was a private one, located in a residence on Main Street. Miss Melinda Smoot opened and operated this school after her lover went away to the War Between the States, never to return.

Miss Melinda mourned the loss of her lover by keeping a fresh bouquet and lighted candle in her front window in his memory. She continued this through the years until the time of her death. She never married.

The first regular school in Huntingdon was said to have been located in its early days in a private house near the old Methodist parsonage. The building, according to one source, belonged to "Miss Ella" Jones and, at her death, it was sold and converted into an apartment building.

The first High school in Huntingdon was said to have been located in a house directly across from where Mrs. Camilla Alexander formerly lived, on Fifth Avenue. Exactly on what date this school was started is not known. However, it is known that it was in operation in 1880 and had a total of 67 students. Miss Mary Leach, retired Huntingdon school teacher, who died in early 1986, had a copy of the listing of the students and the grades they received for the session ending June 10, 1880.

The grades of all 67 students, incidentally were very good. They ranged from a low of 89.20 to a high of 99.55, the latter being that received by Miss Erin Priest.

There are some amusing stories relating to Huntingdon's early school. In one case, four boys made an arrangement with William Rogers, who served as janitor, to permit them access to the building so they could leave a collection of frogs in and around the desk of their principal, Professor Yarrell. The youngsters collected frogs at night near an old chestnut tree close to the Presbyterian Church. By using lighted candles to blind the frogs temporarily, they managed to bag about two gallons of the small creatures.

The following day there was much subdued laughter when the Professor sat down at his desk to begin the class work. When he pulled out his desk drawer to get a pencil, several frogs hopped out. When

he lifted a book from the top of his desk, several more leaped into the air. With each move the Professor made, still more frogs appeared. He was first dismayed, annoyed, and finally just plain angry.

When questioned, none of the students would betray his friends to the angry Professor. Unable to determine exactly which ones should be punished, the Professor decided to take no chances. Accordingly, he favored each and every student with several sharp licks from a switch as they sat at their desks.

Another amusing incident concerned an ingenious trick used for catching a thief. It seemed that someone had been stealing wood from a pile used in a stove for classroom heating. The janitor told some of the boys the school's woodpile was "Melting away" in a hurry, so it was decided to set a trap for the culprit.

The youngsters bored a hole into the end of one stick of wood and filled the hole almost full with gunpowder. Then they drove a wooden peg into the hold and sawed the edge of the peg off neatly so that the end of the stick was smooth and gave no hint of having been tampered with. The job completed, the group placed the stick of wood on the pile, first making certain that all students would recognize it and would not let it be put in the school's stove.

Some time later, the youngsters noticed that the stick of wood was missing, and soon its whereabouts was no longer a mystery. There was a terrific explosion in a house not very far away from the school house. The thief, who lived nearby, had put the stick of wood in his own stove and the heating apparatus was literally wrecked. No one, however, was hurt.

In 1890, Huntingdon was selected as the location for Southern Normal University and the county newspapers hailed that decision as a major victory for the town. The Carroll County Democrat, for example, in its issue of August 22, 1890, noted that Huntingdon "downs its competitors and gets the University." The story went on to say that the decision to locate the school here had been made as a result of the town's offer to loan the University's backers \$16,000.00 interest-free for five years, the money to be taken up as tuition for Huntingdon children.

The story added that, at the end of the five-year period, any of the \$16,000.00 that had not been used up in the form of tuition was to be refunded, or interest was to be paid from that date on any amount remaining from the original loan.

After the ground had been selected and a contract let for the construction work, arrangements were made for a gala corner-stone laying ceremony. It was a grand day in 1891 when the proud citizens met in the Court House yard and marched to the chosen site for the University- the grounds and site of the present school complex for the Junior High and Elementary Schools.

The Huntingdon Cornet Band, directed by A.J. Hunziker, led the march from the Court House. The exercises were opened with a prayer and speeches were made by former Governor Alvin Hawkins, Chancellor A.G. Hawkins, the Honorable H.C. Townes and Professor J.A. Baker, who was to be president of this new educational center. Chosen to place the corner stones, two little girls proved to be too small to lift the stones, so Colonel T.H. Baker, with characteristic Southern gallantry, stepped forward and did the honors.

The very best architects, both in design and execution, were retained for the construction of Southern Normal University. The buildings were designed with special attention to roominess, ventilation, convenience and other such desirable features and, when completed, they were the show-place of the town.

The main building was a four-story brick, in the shape of a "T", 104 feet across the front and 100 feet deep. It included dining halls, study rooms, library, laboratories, office, class rooms, and a large auditorium with a gallery whose capacity was twelve hundred. All rooms were constructed with due regard for acoustical and optical perfection, and the entire building was heated with steam.

The dormitories for the men were modeled for convenience and comfort. Girls were not to be housed in the dormitories, as in some schools, but were given accommodations in the homes of the town's very best families, where they would have the multiple advantages of home influence, wholesome care and protection. Once each week the girls were joined by a lady member of the faculty in a prayer meeting, where any questions and difficulties pertaining to their conduct and welfare, both social and personal, were discussed fully and freely.

There was one big problem for the school, and this was that there were no lavatory facilities. This problem was solved by the erection of two very large outhouses, each having a dozen accommodations for a dozen persons.

In its first year, Southern Normal enrolled 550 students from 10 states and graduated 52. The early success of the University brought something of a boom to Huntingdon, causing 50 more new residences to be built to provide living quarters for staff members and homes into which boarders could be taken.

Costs for University courses in those days were negligible compared to such costs today and Southern Normal offered a longer school week and more hours per day than most other Universities at considerably less cost. For example, one could go to Southern Normal for studies lasting 12 hours a day, six days per week for a total of 45 weeks per year at a cost of \$150.00, while most other educational institutions charged \$300.00 per year for courses running 8 hours per day, five days per week.

University table board in Huntingdon was \$1.25 per week, while a room at the dormitory was 25 cents per week. Board with the "best" private families was available at rates running from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per week, and one could get a furnished room in a private home, two in a room, for from 40 to 50 cents per week. What was advertised as "good private board", including furnished rooms and food, was offered at \$2.00 per week.

Individual courses, if one did not wish to take the full curriculum, ranged from 50 cents per month for penmanship to \$1.25 per month for law and classical courses. Tuition was free for "Ministers and those totally unable to perform manual labor." There was a library fee of 50 cents per term of nine weeks. Texts books were available on a rental basis, 40 to 50 cents per term.

After eleven successful years, at least insofar as its educational program and attendance records were concerned, because of demands for common school education and better equipped universities, along with financial problems, the University was obliged to close and its property was sold. Bonds were floated and the Town of Huntingdon purchased the structures, which were put under repair, and, in 1902,

the plant was put under the control of Professor A.E. Booth, who was elected President for a term of 10 years.

In 1908, however, the plant was bought by Professor James E. Bayers and given the name "Industrial Training School." On the site of the old Southern Normal University or Industrial Training School today stands an educational complex consisting of the Junior High School and the Elementary School, along with a jointly used lunch room, a large, well-equipped gymnasium and a large football field for the Junior High and Elementary Schools.

Still further away, off Buena Vista road at edge of the west end of Huntingdon and over near the Carroll County Civic Center, there now has been constructed two further, modern educational facilities. These are a new, extremely well equipped Huntingdon High School, replacing the old one (now used at the Junior High School), and a Tennessee State-sponsored and built Vocational Technical School. In behind the new High School, there is a large football field with modern concrete stadiums for spectators. Large parking areas also are near the football field.

The present Huntingdon schools, which provide extremely good educational facilities for the young people of the town and surrounding country-side, are under the supervision of Superintendent Paul Ward and well-trained faculties. The schools also come under the School Board for the Huntingdon Special School District.

Huntingdon was voted a special school district in 1919, at which time the schools here literally became public schools. The old High School building, now used as the Junior High School, was built by the U.S. Works Progress Administration and completed in 1935. A considerable amount of remodeling and other work was done on this structure within the last few years to make it safer and more useable.

The Primary School was severely damaged when a tornado swept across Huntingdon on May 7, 1971. Fortunately, the tornado hit after the day's school session had ended. While the school building was being rebuilt, the school's activities were carried on in steel structures provided by the United States Government.

For the school year 1971-1972, enrollment at the High School was 419, the Elementary School 581, and the Primary School 452. The staffs for all Huntingdon schools for 1971-72 included 63 teachers and 32 others. The staffs for all Huntingdon schools for 1985-86 included 87 certified persons, 24 non-certified persons and 20 lunch room employees.

Incidentally, a large old bell that once rang from the Belfry Tower of the old Southern Normal University- with some boys working their way through school by serving as bell ringers- now rings from another newer tower near what is the present Junior High School. This tower was built under sponsorship of the Huntingdon Junior Music Club and dedicated on Sunday, October 15, 1955, with the late Mrs. E. Love Hawkins making the principal address.

The bell was "rescued", so speak, from the then High School building basement, where it had been placed when a new High School building was built. J. Leroy Tate, Sr., then a teacher, found the bell in the basement, considered that its "dignity should be restored" and started a "save the bell fund drive." That prompted the Junior Music Club to start a project to assist, and the new tower was built and the bell installed.

With the school's permission, for the last number of years students have been ringing the bell each time one of the Huntingdon school's football teams wins a game.

Basketball was probably the first team sport of the Huntingdon schools, followed on occasions by some baseball. The late former Mayor Robert Murray was on one of the school's first basketball teams. The games were played on a dirt court at the back of the old Weldon Pritchard's car lot. Football came later.

The first Superintendent of the Huntingdon schools was Professor D.W. Moody and the first physical education coach was J.C. Mills. Huntingdon played its first football game in 1927, against Dresden, and since that year there has been a steadily increasing interest in football by the students and the townfolks. It is reported, however, that there was one occasion in which a football game was played at Kilzer Field, out the Lexington Road in 1932 for which only one paid 25-cent admission fee was received. Today, as a rule, there are several thousand persons in attendance at a Mustang football game.

Halloween Pranks

The school buildings of Huntingdon, including the old structure that once housed Southern Normal University, have been the scenes of many Halloween pranks over the years.

Soon after Professor Moody arrived to head the school system, for example, a group of students put a horse and wagon on the stage of the auditorium of the former SNU building. On still another Halloween, some older students put a cow on the stage.

For this latter incident, the older students were accompanied by a group of young children who should have stayed at home or confined themselves to "trick or treat" solicitations. The real culprits, who were older and who could run fast, got away. But the younger ones got caught by Professor Moody and the town sheriff as they sought to make their exit through the building's front door. As punishment, the youngsters were obliged to remain in the school auditorium until midnight, studying, after first removing the cow and cleaning up the mess it had made. And when the youngsters finally got home, most of them received a hearty spanking for having remained out so late.

One of the incidents which former Superintendent C.H. Pudor remembers during his many years with the Huntingdon school system involves a Halloween prank. He arrived at the High School building one morning to find the janitor, Rogers Greer, in a tizzy, wringing his hands and all but in a state of hysteria. Silently Greer led Mr. Pudor to the auditorium where they found Mrs. Bessie Stausell's faithful old white horse rambling aimlessly around the big room.

Happily, the Halloween shenanigans of yesteryear are pretty much a thing of the past. With the police, sheriff, deputies and others patrolling the streets to prevent major depredations, only a limited number of pranks are in evidence. These are confined chiefly to such minor misdemeanors as marking a shop window with soap or strewing toilet paper about one's property.

To keep the young people entertained, while at the same time holding them in check, the Parent Teacher's Association has, in recent years, staged carnivals or other forms of entertainment at the school gymnasium on Halloween.

This is only one small example of the fine spirit of cooperation that prevails between parents, teachers and the children. It is hoped that such worthwhile activities will continue to keep the lines of communication open. At present, there appears to be no serious "generation" gap at Huntingdon's excellent schools.

The school system of Huntingdon comes under the overall supervision of the Huntingdon Special School District Board. Chairman of that body is James Neely. Other members of the group are: Mike McLemore, Glenn Morgan, Jerry T. Morris, Douglas Brandon and Robert Taylor. The School Superintendent, Paul Ward, is responsible for immediate overall day-to-day direction: Dave Hadden is High School Principal, Ewell Bouldin Principal of the Junior High and Elementary School, and Clarence Barham is Principal of the Primary School.

Post Office And Mail System

Mail during the early days was brought into Huntingdon by stage coach, and this arrangement for receiving and sending mail was continued for a number of years.

The first postmaster here was Samuel W. White, who was appointed on September 23, 1824.

The Post Office in Huntingdon has been moved from time to time to various parts of Court House Square. It finally got permanent quarters with the building of the structure where it is now housed, on the south side. That building was completed in 1933. The present Postmaster is Roy Goodrum.

With train mail service directly into and out of Huntingdon hav-

ing ended, the mail now is transported by mail cars and trucks.

In the beginning days of the Post Office, everyone had to pick up his own mail. Rural deliveries came first, then house-to-house deliveries in town. Henry Brewer was the first postman and he had to carry his mail in a heavy satchel and walk from house to house.

For a period of time, in-town mail carriers were provided jeeps for making their deliveries. However, as the U. S. Postal Service began making strong efforts to hold down expenses, carriers making residential deliveries inside town were offered more money if they were willing to give up their rides.

Huntingdon Produced Leaders

Through the years, the Town of Huntingdon has produced many leaders, persons who have made names for themselves as lawyers, judges, and leaders in various other fields. In this connection, Huntingdon is extremely proud of having produced two distinguished state Governors, the late Alvin Hawkins and the late Gordon Browning, who, in addition, was a war hero and also was a member of the United States Congress.

The Honorable Alvin Hawkins became Huntingdon's first Governor of Tennessee. He moved with his father to this area of Tennessee when he was only seven years of age. Entering work in the law field when he was 20, he was admitted to the bar a year later and soon gained prominence in the legal profession. After serving in other high positions, he was elected Governor of Tennessee and served in that capacity from 1881 to 1883. He is buried in the Hawkins family cemetery plot about one mile out on Buena Vista Road from Huntingdon.

The late Governor Gordon Browning was born on a farm near Atwood, began the practice of law in Huntingdon after obtaining his law degree. He was one of the first to volunteer when World War I broke out, took part in some of the bitterest fighting in France and was decorated for gallantry and earned the distinction of being an able leader. After returning to Huntingdon and marrying Ida Leach, he ran for and was elected a member of the U. S. Congress in 1922. In 1934, he ran for the United States Senate, but was defeated. However, he ran for Governor of Tennessee and won by a landslide. As Governor, he made quite a number of outstanding achievements, but, nevertheless, was defeated when he ran for a second term in 1938.

Not long after second World War broke out, Browning re-enlisted in the United States Army, agreed to accept the commission of Captain, the same that he held when discharged following World War I, and entered the Military Government Division. He became a Military Governor in Europe responsible for re-establishing local self-government in an area where communications were out, the economy was wrecked, transportation was completely disrupted and utilities

had been completely destroyed.

As Browning progressed in his efforts in Military Government work, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, also eventually was made Deputy Commissioner of Belgium. After the collapse serving there for more than a year after the war ended. Later, he was decorated by five different governments.

In 1948, he again ran for Governor of Tennessee, and in November of that year he again was voted into office with a very large majority, serving this time from 1949 to 1953. Governor Browning is buried here in Huntingdon at Oak Hill Cemetery. Since his death, his wife, Ida, and her sister, Mary Leach, also have passed away and also were buried at Oak Hill.

The Browning home, which was built here in Huntingdon where he planned to and did live his final days, long was a show place here. A one-story structure with large white wooden pillars supporting the roof of the front porch, the house was left in the late Governor's will for Lambuth College, in Jackson. That institution, obviously having no real use for a house so far removed from its own location, has made attempts, it is understood, to dispose of the structure through a sale. It also is understood, however, that the college thus far has not been able to obtain an offer of an amount it considers acceptable, or an amount reasonably close to what it considers the estimated present value of the house.

Unfortunately, this has meant that the unoccupied structure, since being vacated months ago, has just been sitting, gradually deteriorating with the passage of time. No repairs had been made on it for quite a while prior to the time it was vacated by Miss Mary Leach following the death of her sister, the Governor's widow.

On the second floor of the McKenzie Memorial Library, at 141 Broadway North, McKenzie, Tennessee, there is a special Gordon Browning room. That room contains a wide variety of items and records — memorabilia — formerly belonging to the late Governor Gordon Browning.

WHAT HAPPENED TO.....?

And now, as the initial part of THE HUNTINGDON STORY is about to be brought to a close, Mary Ann Herron, who assisted in research work and in other ways in bringing this up to date, suggests that the readers be asked WHAT HAPPENED TO...?

1. The 25¢ family style meal that you were able to get at the old Johnson House Hotel?
2. The day delivery of ice, coal and groceries all over town?
3. The days when you had no electricity until 6:00 p.m., none in the daytime at all?
4. The shoe shine boy you used to find in every barber shop?
5. The fountain and curb service at the drug stores? (Well, at least one drug store has put a fountain.)
6. House calls by your physician seven days a week, day or night, rain or shine?
7. The old livery stable and produce house?
8. The ice cream and box supper, the hay rides?

9. The old iron wash pot and scrub board?

10. The Olive House Hotel, the McCracken-Carter House, the old McCall House, the Murray House and the Teachout House?

11. Children playing red rover, kick the can, hop scotch, jump the rope, and hockey?

12. Or, as another old time asks: What happened to that general storekeeper who, when asked by a small boy whose parents had sent him shopping for a couple of rolls of toilet paper, said "Sorry, we have none today, but we do have some mighty nice sand paper."

13. Or, finally, what happened to that other storekeeper who was in the back of his store when a customer whose voice was changing came in the front door and said, "I'd like a dimes worth of cheese (in a very low pitched voice) and (in a very high pitched voice) a nickel's worth of crackers, causing the storekeeper to say, "Wait just a minute, please, and I'll be up there to wait on both of you!"

DO YOU REMEMBER....

Compliments of "Miss Bennie"
(Bennie Caroline Humble Hall)

WHEN the Model-T was the ultimate in *de luxe* family cars? There were no self-starters, so you got out and cranked - sometimes pushed - hoping for the best but prepared for the worst.

WHEN all well-dressed motorists, masculine variety, wore long dusters, perky caps and goggles? On the distaff side, the correct costume was a feminine version of the duster and large hat with a flowing veil tied in a saucy bow under Milady's chin.

WHEN it was the secret dream of practically every young whipper-snapper to own a Stufts-Bearcat, a coonskin coat and a 10¢ cigar.

WHEN many an early car owner, having mastered the business of starting the vehicle, suddenly discovered that stopping the obstreperous critter was something else again. He had no choice other than to drive round and round the Square, or wherever, followed by heckling youngsters and self-appointed advisors, until the bull-headed thing ran out of gas and stopped of its own accord. Of a surety, an automobile in that era was not the perennially enjoyable status symbol it was cracked up to be! And the shouted admonition "Get a horse," was made.

WHEN a lady's legs were known as limbs, her body as a "shape" - and Fanny was a girl's name? A woman's bosom, if mentioned at all, was referred to in the singular; to say "breasts" revealed a naughty awareness that there were two of the outrageous things.

WHEN loaf bread meant Book Club Day and oranges meant Christmas? Housewives baked their own bread - biscuits and/or cornbread three times a day, bakery bread being available only on special occasions. Fresh fruit out of season was a luxury that few householders could afford.

WHEN, in the good old do-it-yourself days, you raised, fattened and slaughtered your own pigs; "rendered out" your own lard, ground your own sausage, and home-cured your own hams in the smokehouse out back.

WHEN you raised your own sorghum cane, made your own molasses, with the help of kindly neighbors and a borrowed sorghum mill? Invariably, these were festive occasions, made so by the spirit of togetherness that prevailed - and the gay "candy-pulls" that followed.

WHEN the electric refrigerator was only a gleam in some "crackpot inventor's" eye. Ice was something that strong men cut from creeks in the wintertime and stored in specially built ice houses until summer. The more affluent householders had ice boxes in which to store food; others hung milk, butter and perishable items in wells or utilized well-houses as means of preservation.

WHEN the wood-burning stove, along with the open fireplace, was the instrument of torture that made possible "the joy of cooking?" Actually, these were the days when one started a fire from scratch, sometimes with damp, unseasoned wood, since not everyone was blessed with an all-purpose woodshed. (A circumstance that many a harassed parent deplored - and just as many recalcitrant youngsters endorsed!)

WHEN traveling salesmen were known as drummers, and regarded as wolves in city-slicker clothing by the more circumspect old-timers. Said to be among the first "Girl-Watchers" to darken the American scene, these so-called predators would lounge in the Hotel Olive's lobby, ogling the passing young ladies, who were careful to keep their faces averted, their eyes modestly downcast.

WHEN the pealing of the Court House bell proclaimed the arrival of fresh fish to the town's market. Meanwhile, in those pre-pollution days, local Nimrods reported the catch as "fine" in Beaver Creek and other nearby streams - although the biggest fish usually got away.

WHEN no girl who valued her reputation would be caught dead - or alive - buying cosmetics? Those, in fact, were the days when no self-respecting young lady had the temerity to entertain a male visitor with the parlor window-blinds down; when only "fast" girls went driving alone with young men in rubber-tired hug-me-tight buggies, and gypsy teas, carefully chaperoned, constituted the chief diversion open to nice boys and girls; when chaperons were strictly a "must", no matter who you were or where you were going.

WHEN the rumble seat came into being as a means of conveyance of chaperons, mothers-in-law, visiting cousins, and other such intrusive characters.

WHEN the livelier girls came to be known as flappers, and such feverish dances as "The Charleston" and "The Big Apple" were the rage. Even such staid arbiters and mores and manners as Dame Fashion veered to the wild side. Remember the shocking invasion of bobbed hair, bloomers, fringed skirts, hobble skirts, cloche hats, lace stockings - and long ropes of simulated pearls which reached from neck to knees. These weird get-ups were indeed the "cat's pajamas," a slang term having nothing whatsoever to do with pussycats.

WHEN a dead horse became a matter of high controversy, all but splitting the town into two fractions. To refresh your memory: A highly respected resident was the owner of venerable horse that was all but regarded as a member of the family. When, at long last, the faithful animal passed on to its final reward, the matter of its resting place became a moot question. The owner insisted that the horse be buried in the family plot in Oak Hill Cemetery. Many of the townspeople were equally insistent that the burial take place elsewhere, pointing out that Oak Hill was a graveyard for human beings, certainly not a boneyard for horses. After many heated arguments, the animal finally was laid to rest in a grassy knoll just outside the graveyard proper - a knoll that is today an integral part of the beautiful and gradually expanding Oak Hill Cemetery. (The horse finally got in when more space was added and the fence moved.)

WHEN "The Jew Store" offering bargains in just about everything from headgear to footwear, retained its name long after its Hebrew proprietor had departed. Proud of his race, he had no ethnic hang-ups, nor did his Gentile customers.

WHEN many Huntingdon housewives prepared meals according to train schedules rather than the clocks. The 11 o'clock morning train was a signal for finishing up dinner - dinner being in the middle of the day, of course. When the 5 o'clock afternoon train went through, it was time to fix supper. If the trains were late - well, so were the meals.

WHEN foul-tasting medicines, like fine-flavored food, came out of the kitchen. Few of us can forget the sickly-sweet taste of sulphur-and-molasses, that magic potion calculated to cure the myriad ailments peculiar to springtime; the icky feel of raw fat meat as it drew to a head a summer boil; the sickening sight of molded bread (a forerunner of penicillin) being applied to an open wound. And surely no one can forget the fetid aroma of asafoetida bags, worn around children's necks and performing the dual function of warding off contagious diseases and discouraging affectionate "kissing cousins."

Also, while remembering, let us not over look homely nostrums as sassafrass tea, the traditional spring tonic; the common buckeye, whose possessor was fully insured against such ailments as rheumatism and/or piles. Moreover, let us not forget to remember the old wive's tale to the effect that licking a greased skillet would cause a baby to teethe more easily, less painfully.

WHEN there were no bathrooms, no indoor plumbing whatsoever. A tub was a round zinc receptacle designed expressly for washing clothes, but doubling as a bathtub on a Saturday night. Remember? And certainly no one - but no one - is likely to "disremember" those walks through the scorching summer heat, the bitter winter cold, to the picturesque Early American outhouse at the back of beyond. Oh, there was nothing shoddy about these old-time comfort stations. Usually they followed the main residence in design and architecture, were equipped with all the necessary appurtenances - such as corn-cobs and Sears and Roebuck catalogue, in lieu of squeezing Charmin - and sometimes had accommodations for as many as four sitters - three adult and one child...

WHEN a telephone was a box on the wall - and party lines were a formidable, if not always accurate, part of the news media. You turned a crank to get Central, who was a living human being, not a disembodied voice calculated to confuse. There were no mechanical gizmos, capable of reducing the so-called "weaker sex" to terms of frustration, and providing normally God-fearing men into a frenzy of four-letter words.

Central, an obliging soul, knew just about everything there to know, including the correct time of day and where the fire as well as the phone number you could not recollect - and the whereabouts of the party you wished to reach.

"Miss Minniebelle is not at home now, honey," she would volunteer, on occasions. "I saw her just a minute ago, crossing the Square. Shall I call you when I see her going back?"

Those, in fact, were the days when it was smart to be courteous, thrifty, thoughtful of one's fellowman; when such cardinal virtues as friendliness and hospitality were as much a part of the Southern scene as turnip greens, poke salit and black-eyed peas. Remember?

WHEN a square meal consisted of quantities of fresh vegetables, wall-to-wall home-baked pies, and meat at both ends of the table. Remember, too, those long-term guests who felt at liberty to remain until the preserves were whisked off the table - even if it meant staying all winter!

WHEN the singing of an everyday song on a Sunday was regarded by some parents as a punishable offense. So was whistling, a popular saying being, "A whistling girl and a cackling hen always come to some bad end." Dancing, too, was considered sinful, the first step on the Road to Ruin. Just look what happened to Solomon! Or was it Little Sheba?

All of which prompts us to ask. What happened to the quaint innovations, the sacrosanct mores, of yesteryear? Where have they gone, when did they go - and why? Just when did lambrequins, antimacassars, flowered druggets, pass out of the picture? Just what smarty-pants robot had the effrontery to ring the bell on such homely creative arts as pyrography, passepapartout, had embroidery, china painting? And where did all the hammered-brass cuspids and hand-painted chamberpots go?

Just where did we lose such old-time creature discomforts as hammocks, love seats, horse-hair sofas, such time-honored inconveniences as pot-bellied stoves, kerosene lamps, trundle beds; such ear-splitters as the player piano, not to speak of such back-breakers as the old-time churn.

Just where did we lose such romantic "beau catchers" as the rufled corset covers, hair rats, feather fans, silk parasols; such masculine oddities as derby hats, corduroy knickers, zoot suits, button-shoes, spats: Just why did such down-to-earth feminities as sunbonnets, bloomers, cook-aprons, pass into the limbo of things-forgotten?

What actually did happen to "Black Bottom," the "Big Apple," the "Turkey Trot," cheek-to-cheek dancing? And whatever did become of that grandfather of all satorial indignities: the all-purpose "Long John," designed variously to meet the fundamental needs of ladies, gents, bed-wetting children....

To the oldtimers who have accompanied us on this nostalgic journey down Memory Lane, we raise our hats in salute. They learned about character, endurance, kindliness, along with a healthy respect for their fellowman.

For the young people who do not remember: a sigh of regret for the enriching experiences they have missed; a vote of confidence that they will face up to the challenge of a new and highly complex world with the same unfailing fortitude that sustained their forebears through the ground-breaking yesteryears.

Seen in retrospect, across a vista of crowded, sometimes parlous years, those were indeed the good days. Everybody worked, including Grandsire, and for every hardship there were compensations. Those, in short, were the days when we as well-meaning, if sometimes fumbling, do-gooders were so busy, so happy, so poor and so rich...

HUNTINGDON TODAY

one-room status, now is a well-built, two-story, modernized structure which compares favorably with just about any House of Justice in West Tennessee.

The Town of Huntingdon has every reason to be proud of its heritage, grateful for its dynamic mid-south position in Tennessee. It continues to be, as it has since its founding, a friendly town with endless opportunities for all who make it their home or choose it as a place of business.

Those born in Huntingdon truly have a great many reasons for being happy and proud to have been born here and the opportunity to live in such a peaceful community. Those who have moved here through years, not having been fortunate enough to have been born here, also should be highly pleased with what they have found.

Just talk to your neighbors and friends. You are certain to find among them one family that moved to Huntingdon from a very crowded city where they paid sky-high rentals and other equally high living expenses. You'll hear them say that upon moving here, they found a reasonable costing good home, obtained suitable employment for the working members of the family and really are enjoying life to the fullest for the first time ever. Believe it or not, there are such cases as this!

Huntingdon Industries

Although originally an agriculture area, Huntingdon, during the past years, has attracted some new industries to add to those already here. Industries located in Huntingdon as of 1986 were as follows:

Basler Electric Company, manufacturing transformers, employing 83 persons.

Aljon Screw Machine Products, screw machine products, employing 9 persons.

Bill Sills Sportswear, Inc., sportswear, employing 86 persons.

Tennessee Metal Specialty Co., microwave oven cavities, employing 115 persons.

Turner's Dairies, Inc., milk, ice cream, milk products, employing 20 persons.

Publix Shirt Corporation, manufacturing shirts, employing 400 persons.

Norandal USA, Inc., sheet aluminum foil, employing 201 persons.

Several colleges are located near Huntingdon. These are Bethel in McKenzie, the University of Tennessee at Martin, Union University, Lane, Lambuth and Jackson State Community College at Jackson.

Huntingdon, itself, has many churches, all active in worthwhile community affairs and dedicated to the promotion of religion and the betterment of humanity everywhere.

The town has a large and easily accessible main business section in and around the Court House and off Court Square. These also are shopping areas and shopping centers at the eastern and western

edges of town on Highway 70, as well as a number of individual places of business on other highways leading in and out of town.

Huntingdon has several restaurants and hamburger stands, also one restaurant specializing in steaks and pizzas, three drug stores, furniture stores, electrical appliance shops, shoe, jewelry, hardware dealers, beauty shops, a very small hotel, a motel, laundrymats, dry cleaning establishments, funeral parlors, auto parts stores, repair shops for this and that, every type of business one would expect to find in town this size.

Huntingdon has its own Fire, Police, Parks and Cemetery, Street, Water and Sewer and Sanitation Departments. It also is the location of an efficient Carroll County Electric Department, as well as branches of the Tennessee State Employment and Security Services, a branch of the State Department of Human Services and many other county, state and federal offices.

Further, as this is being written (1986), possibilities appear quite good that, in time, Huntingdon will have a reasonably large new motel along with a new, good-sized restaurant with adequate space for the holding of business and organizational luncheon or dinner meetings. And to top it all, after years of efforts by a great many people, Huntingdon, itself, and its industries -- along with all of Carroll County -- soon will be in a position to benefit from a Carroll County Airport, construction of which was expected to get underway during 1986.

Medical Facilities - Hospitals

The medical facilities that presently are available here are a real credit to the community. They consist of a large hospital, a medical clinic with four physicians, a surgical clinic with one surgeon, another physician with offices, three home health care facilities. Huntingdon also has a large Care Inn nursing home.

The hospital in Huntingdon, located at this time at 625 High Street and formerly operated as the Carroll County General Hospital, now is called the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Huntingdon and is operated as a non-profit affiliate of Baptist Memorial Health Care Development Corporation, of Memphis. The present hospital plant was constructed, as the Carroll County General Hospital, in 1965 as a 45-bed facility on a ten acre tract of land. It was opened on January 17, 1965.

In 1972, a ten-bed Coronary Care Unit was added, and in March, 1975, a twenty-bed surgical wing was added. The last expansion brought the hospital's capacity to 72 beds, with two semi-private rooms being rooms being converted into private rooms.

The Baptist Memorial Care System, Inc., of Memphis, purchased the hospital facility from Carroll County on July 1, 1983, to become one of that organization's Corporate Service facilities. Since that time, the hospital has initiated a new Chapel and Chaplaincy, a Home Health Care Program, a modern Physician's Clinic in a nearby Bruceton, also started a great many new services.

In accordance with the arrangements between the Carroll County government and the Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., a new seven-million dollar replacement hospital plant is now under construction. When completed, it is to replace the existing Huntingdon hospital.

As it was when operated as the Carroll County General Hospital, the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Huntingdon has as its active staff all of the Huntingdon physicians, Dr. B. Narayana Bhat, surgeon, and Doctors Jerry F. Atkins, Scott Portis, George Wesley, James S. Williamson and R.B. Wilson. In addition, however, the hospital now have available a courtesy staff of thirty-five other medical specialists in a variety of fields, such as dentistry, surgery, general medical, emergency, medical, radiology, urology, an ear, nose and throat specialist, also five consulting doctors in pathology.

At the same time, steps are underway to resume obstetrical care at the hospital and the handling of the birth of babies. Some such

cases again have been handled there in recent times. The hospital also has on its staff a total of ten nurses who have had advance cardiology training and thus would be fully capable of taking proper care of a patient in the absence of a physician. Although the average hospital might have as many as four nurses so trained, some actually have none. The hospital here plans to have a further five of its nurses undertake such training, so that it eventually will have a total of 15 with such training.

Since the hospital was taken over, many new services have been started. Some of these other new services are as follows: Twenty-four hour emergency room physician coverage, in-house clinics for orthopedic, urology and ear, nose and throat specialists, a community outreach program, prenatal classes, health career programs in area schools, etc. The hospital authorities are convinced that it is best and less expensive for a patient when maximum services are available here, instead of the patient having to be sent elsewhere. The overall immediate administrative direction of the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Huntingdon is under Robert V. Greene, Administrator.

Construction on the new hospital, which is being built off the Huntingdon By-Pass near High Street, somewhat behind the present hospital building, has been proceeding rapidly. It is expected that the new facility will be ready for occupancy and opening January, 1987, possibly earlier.

The new hospital is being constructed on a 21-acre site. When completed, it will consist of expansions to all of the existing departments, including Emergency Room, Respiratory Therapy, CCU/ICU, Labor and Delivery, Medical Records, Accounting, Personnel-Public Relations, Inservice, Infection Control, Maintenance, Laundry, Housekeeping, Administration and Nursing. Further, the new structure is being built in such a way that it will be easy to expand for additional space.

With the opening of the new hospital building, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Huntingdon will have a helicopter-landing pad and expects to have in operation helicopter service for moving to Memphis highly serious cardiac cases when a transfer is considered desirable. Also, when advisable, a cardiac specialist from Memphis can be flown in to Huntingdon by helicopter to accompany a patient back to Memphis. Helicopter services already have been used in a couple or so cases.

Older Homes and Landmarks

The Town of Huntingdon has a large number of older homes which are real landmarks. Some of these older homes are extremely well kept and thus are show places of the town today. Among such houses are the old Conyers home at 385 Northwood Drive, now the home of Walter R. and Mary Belle Montgomery; the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Burton Wilson at 231 Paris Street West; the old Addie McNeal home at 243 Paris Street West, now the Douglas Ragland home; the old Marshal Priest home at 105 East Main Street, now the home of Attorney and Mrs. D.D. Maddox and family.

Still other old landmark homes are: the old Amelia Townes home at 214 East Main Street, now that of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Portis; the old Neil Wright home on Paris Street West; the old Mebane home on High Street near Mebanwood Drive; the old Fred Waters home on Paris Street; the old Will Priest home at 205 West Paris Street, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cequin, Jr.; the old Jim Wilder home on Paris Street West, adjoining the old Neil Wright home.

Communications Media

The communications media for Huntingdon are most adequate. The town is linked to other parts of Tennessee through South Central Bell. South Central Bell, in turn, can connect users with anyone of several long distance facilities for communications with other parts of the United States, or for overseas calls.

There continue to be printed for distribution primarily in the greater Huntingdon area two weekly newspapers. These are the Carroll County News (and Carroll County Democrat), which also began publishing The BUYER'S GUIDE in August, 1985, a free publication to everyone in Huntingdon, Hollow Rock, Bruceton, and Buena

Also, the old home occupied by Mrs. Mary Ann Herron at 199 Paris Street West; the old Finley home at 282 East Paris Street North now that of Mrs. Ann Ward; the old Molly Bennett home (grand mother of Fred Bennett) at 274 Paris Street East; the old Judge Enochs home, now that of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bush at 160 Brownning Avenue; the old "Miss Tealie" Enochs home on East Main Street; the old brick Hall home on that same street, and the old Ben Sanders house across from the Junior High School.

The town's population, of course, has been increasing year by year with new housing developments coming up here and there and some developments having really beautiful completely modern homes. Meanwhile, plans have been made for the continued growth of Huntingdon in an organized manner. Aside from Huntingdon's present subdivisions, more than a half dozen of which are not a great many years old, there are potential sites for several hundred more private homes.

Special Monuments In Huntingdon

Special monuments are located in Huntingdon on the Court House lawn. They are in memory of the two Huntingdon men who became Governors of Tennessee, Alvin Hawkins and Gordon Browning; two policemen who tragically lost their lives in service, George Hobbs and Mark Pinson; and the remaining monument is a "Memorial Monument to all the veterans", all of the Carroll County veterans of war.

The monument honoring all Carroll County veterans was the most recent one installed on the Court House lawn. It was placed there during a ceremony on June 29, 1986, through arrangements made by the Homecoming '86 Projects Committee. The \$4,000 required for having the monument made, engraved, and installed, was contributed by the Carroll County Commissioners, the Veteran's Associa-

tion, the Town of Huntingdon, and individuals. Some local merchants collected donations through jars the committee placed in their places of business.

The new monument for all veterans is seven feet tall and is made of granite. It was placed in the Northwest Corner of the Court House lawn and was to be spot-lighted and to have shrubbery planted around it to beautify the base. A large crowd of county residents and a number of town, county, and state dignitaries attended the ceremony for installing and dedicating the monument. The United States Navy Band, from Millington, took part in the ceremony, providing an hour's musical concert.

CHARIS

Huntingdon, once again, also is proud to be the home of CHARIS, the organization which has as its full name, "Children Helped And Renewed In Spirit." Established and operated for children who are troubled or who are facing possible trouble or are without parents and who are between the ages of 12 and 17, the CHARIS home is located five miles out from Huntingdon off the Gordon Browning Highway. Facilities consist of 6,500 square feet of space in a modern building constructed on 10 acres of wooded farmland. The land and facilities already have been donated by Huntingdon's Walter R. Montgomery and his son, Dr. W. A. Montgomery.

The CHARIS home can accommodate 12 children at all times and an average of up to 16 for short-term periods. As this is being written, the home was housing seven. The available facilities consist of housing for a total of four girls and eight boys on a long term basis, and the housed youngsters are supervised by "live-in house parents."

In all respects, the CHARIS home is modern, equipped with all necessary conveniences, also some luxuries. The children being housed there help with the work in the home itself, also in raising a garden and in raising poultry or beef for food.

The overall operation of CHARIS is supervised by a 12-member committee, which acts as a screening group for the acceptance of children. That group takes referrals from the Tennessee State Department of Human Services, also court referrals from the Juvenile Courts of Carroll, Henry, and Weakley Counties, the three counties the home serves.

The main purpose for the operation of CHARIS is to prevent children from becoming juvenile law offenders. CHARIS was planning to have an open house for showing its new Huntingdon facility on June 1, 1986. While the new housing facilities were being constructed, CHARIS first opened its activities in an old building which had been remodeled.



The only undefeated team in West Tennessee, including Shelby County, in 1937 was the Huntingdon Mustangs (11 wins, 0 losses). Members included: (row 1 from left) J. C. Smith, Odell Williams, William Woody, Russell Holladay, Jamie White, Elvin Turner, Earnest "Pug" Vickers; (row 2 from left) Darnell Giles, J. E. "Shorty" Vernon, L. D. Wilson, James McLeMORE, Robert Giles, Billy Ivey, John Fields; (row 3 from left) Coach W. E. "Red" McCall, Jimmie McCall, W. E. "Red" McCall, and Coach W. E. "Red" McCall.

3 from left) Joe McCollum, Alex Williamson, Bruce Dillahunty, Thomas Earl Edwards, Raymond "Shady" Bennett, Dorris Swindell, Dr. Ned Priest, Ray White, Troy McIlwain; (row 4 from left) Roy McGinnis, Tom Greene, Dayton Pierce, John Owens, Guy Looney, C. S. Bennett, Jim Holladay, Roy Crider, Joe McAdams.

photo courtesy James McLemore



The 1935 Huntingdon Mustang football team won 10 and lost 1 and was rated number 6 in West Tennessee, including Memphis and Shelby County. Team members include: (front row from left) William Edwards, J. E. "Shorty" Vernon, David Moody, Sam Kee, James M. McLemore, Collie Rice, J. Wesley Williams; (second row from left) Dorris Swindell,

Revis Pinson, Raymond Giles, Frank Teachout, Bob Bourne, Allen Fields, Gene Vernon, Robert Giles; (third row from left) Coach C. H. Pudor, Bill Hickman, Dr. Ned Priest, William "Bill" Ivey, John Fields, Darnell Giles, Fred Ivey, Thomas Earl Edwards, L. D. Lewis, Bob Crawford. Not pictured, Bill McGinnis and Novil Hicks Photo courtesy James M. McLemore

'The Good Old Days Of The 20's and 30's'

**A Reprint
Of Some Of The Pages
Of The Popular Book By J. Leroy Tate, Sr.**

Published 1981, Updated 1986

Businesses In The 20's & 30's

By J. LEROY TATE SR.

The business section of town has seen many changes since the 1920's. Spencer and Noles ran a combination meat market, restaurant and soda fountain in the East side of the building occupied by Knott's Hardware in 1981 and now Jordan's Furniture. I used to wash dishes on Saturdays for 50 cents a day. Bill Townes was the cook. Going West up Main Street, Renzie Johnson had his barber shop and this is where I got my first haircut, giving up my "Buster Brown" hair style for a more manly hair-do. Haircuts were 25 cents. The rear of this shop was occupied by R. F. Dilday, undertaker. Later Mr. Dilday built a new funeral home where The Thomas Shop is now. Mr. Jim Spencer opened his own grocery and meat market in the space which had been used as the old barber shop and undertaker's shop. I worked for Mr. Spencer during two summers and after school and got a raise to \$7.50 a week. Harold Hayes came to work for Spencer during this time.

Farmers would bring their garden crops into town and sell them to the grocers. When the farmers brought in some nice turnip greens, poke salit, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc., one of my jobs was to get on the telephone and call up our best women customers and tell them about all these fresh products that we had. I took their orders on the phone and we had a delivery boy, William Townes, who carried these orders to their home.

Sugar, coffee beans, and similar staples came in the bulk and were scooped out of their bins and put in paper sacks and tied with a string.

Next was the grocery store of E. M. Norman. Later, a man opened a bargain dry goods store. The next building was the Townes Drug Store operated by W. E. Townes, father of Miss Mary Townes. Joe Priest later became part owner. My brother Deward started to work for Dr. Townes when he was 16 years old and worked there until he passed away in 1976.

In these days before the 40-hour work week, stores operated from early till late and the latest was Dr. Townes' Drug Store. It was a nightly meeting place for several of Dr. Townes' old buddies.

There was Walter Butler, Fred Walters, Wayne Jones, Luther Bryant, Charlie Watson, Otha Williams, New Williams, and others.

They sat around the pot-bellied coal stove in the rear of the store, telling stories and reminiscing about their good old days. You noticed that I did not include my father, Joe Tate, in this illustrious group, because most every night he was at McKelvey's Shoe Shop playing cards with McKelvey, Jasper Arnold, and salesmen staying at The Hotel Olive.

The best fountain cokes in town were dispensed at this drug store and it became the Mecca for teen-agers after school who flocked into the drug store and sat at the round marble top tables and enjoyed their cokes and thick milk shakes. Cokes were 5 cents and yes, you could get a good 5 cent cigar. Cigarettes were 15 cents. The delicious drinks were concocted by Deward Tate and Glen "Gum Drop" Bush.

The next store was a grocery store with a glass-enclosed candy case, run by no other than old "Doc" Adams. Later this store was operated by Frank Johnson, father of Miss Addie Johnson and still later by Curtis Barrow.

Next was a dry goods store owned by Mr. Huddleston, it later became a pool room, run by "J Bird" Noell Joyner. Later, Kenneth Martin opened the Huntingdon Furniture Co. in this building.

Next was a vacant lot used by Carter and Fowler as a wire yard where they played marbles, spun tops, and pitched washers. Fred Bennett at one time had a hamburger stand on this lot. Then Mr. Dilday built his new funeral home here. Miss Jamie Hill had a beauty shop upstairs. Fifty cents was the going price for a wash, set, and comb job.

Dr. D. L. King, who pulled my first tooth without any pain killer, had his office above the county library at that time. Later he moved his office upstairs over Dilday Funeral Home.

The next building was the old Bank of Huntingdon. It was operated by Neill Wright, Miss Nannie Paine, Robert Pitts and Mr. Wright's son, Neill Allison Wright. This bank merged in 1933 with the Farmer's State Bank, which occupied the west side of the new Bank of Huntingdon building. The Farmer's State Bank was staffed by G. W. Parish, W. E. Noles, George Merrick, Marie Cequin,

and Frances Bush. I am informed that earlier this spot was a drug store owned by Ernest Hawkins.

Dr. V. E. Massey and Dr. Roy A. Douglass had their offices above the old Bank of Huntingdon building. Both had served overseas in military hospitals during World War I. Dr. Massey told me that during the winter of 1917-18 more soldiers died of the flu than were killed in battle. The ground was frozen so hard that the burial detail couldn't keep up with the dying. He said the bodies were stacked up outside the hospital like cordwood. I remember the winter of 1917-18, it snowed in November and remained on the ground until the next March. Many local residents died from the flu.

The next building was Carter and Fowler. Mr. Bill Fowler was the father of Robert Fowler. Later the store became Carter and Leach. Mr. Leach was the father of Miss Mary Leach and Mrs. Ida Browning.

I have a 1911 ledger from Carter and Fowler Grocery and Hardware and Farm Implement Store. All the "oldtimers", when I was a kid, had accounts with this store. The grocery bills of some of the wealthiest families in town ran as high as \$20-\$30 a month. An item in my father's account shows where he bought a set of dishes for \$1.00 for my mother Dec. 23, 1911, the day I was born.

Back then many farmers bought their flour by the barrel, which sold for about \$6.25, bread was 10 cents, eggs 10 cents, soap 5 cents. One entry was 19 1/2 lbs. of shoulder meat for \$7.44. Other entries show purchases of harness, wagons, double trees, well buckets and rope, plows, middle busters, etc. An entry in the account of J. H. Bayer, who ran the Industrial Training School, shows that he purchased three chambers for \$1.60. You young people will have to ask your grandparents to explain what a chamber was.

The word chamber reminds me of the story of a traveling preacher who spent the night with one of his members and had to sleep with the man's little boy. They got into bed and suddenly the little boy got up and knelt down by his side of the bed. The preacher thought, "I should be ashamed, here this little boy is saying his prayers and I have neglected to do so." He got up and knelt down by the bed. The young boy looked up and asked the preacher what he was doing and he replied, "the same thing you are doing." The boy replied, "you'll catch the dickens in the morning because the chamber is on my side of the bed."

You could go into a grocery store and buy a nickel or dimes worth of cheese and crackers and if you went for the dime deal, if you were not real hungry you might not be able to eat all of it.

The next store was Mrs. Ben H. Jamison's dry good store. My father worked in this store for more than 50 years. Back in those days clerks waited on the customers. Salesmanship was an art in those days. In today's stores you have to search all over the store for a clerk if you need help in a particular department.

The next building was the Farmers State Bank and the old Bank of Huntingdon moved into this spot when the banks merged. The building was three stories. Later a fire destroyed the third floor and was restored as a two-story building. In fighting this fire, the firemen found a big jug of moonshine and some of the firemen overindulged in this thirst-quenching firewater.

Turning the Bank corner and going north were steps and a staircase to the telephone office and the office of Dr. C. V. Gallimore, dentist, and later Dr. Fred Hogan, dentist.

Across the street in the Maddox Building, Wirt Evans had a furniture store where H. L. Carter and Son operated a store and later the Dollar General Store operated. It is presently the location of Rhodes, Inc., Furniture and Appliances. Fred Harrison is the manager, Ray Mathis salesman and Felicia Bush bookkeeper. Later in this same building W. C. Leach of Paris opened a radio and record store. Mr. Leach was the father of Faye Greene. In the basement of this building, George Chambers and his son, Cleo, had a tin shop. There was also a cafe run by blacks and there was also jazz music being beaten out on the cafe's piano day and night.

Upstairs in the Maddox building were the law offices of P. W. Maddox and his two boys, Dwayne and Poole Maddox. Fred Tate had a real estate office upstairs. J. Sam Johnson, Sr., had his lawyer's office upstairs over the next building, the upstairs of the building where the Carroll County News moved into and extensively remodeled in November, 1983. E. C. Shackelford had a barbershop upstairs, also.

Next was the store owned by Bud Lee where I bought my plug licorice. As far as I can learn, Mr. Lee had the first gasoline pump in town. You pumped a handle to force gasoline up into a ten gallon glass cylinder which had marks to show the number of gallons.

The Post Office was next. Then the grocery and novelty store run by E. C. Grizzard. The store had a soda fountain and a block of ice was planed with an ice scraper to get ice for the drinks. Both Deward Tate and Glen Bush worked for Mr. Grizzard before they went to work for Dr. Townes and Mr. Grizzard always claimed credit for getting them started off right in the business world.

Next was the shoe shop of A. N. McElveen. James Wyatt worked for Mr. McElveen. Next to the shoe shop was a vacant lot where Miss Linnie Carter built the Court Theater. Next was a frame building used by Dr. Joe McCall and later a man named Rankin had a bakery shop there. The next building was the buggy shop of A. M. Lee. He had the latest models in buggies on display along with harness, whips, etc. Later Ed Merritt had a grist mill in his building, followed by a cafe run by J. B. Hilliard. Dr. Roy Douglas built his office on the corner lot now occupied by Dr. Scarbrough. This corner lot was earlier the site of a two story frame building. On the ground floor, Mrs. Bell Vickers had a cafe. Outside steps led to the picture studio of a Mr. Lambert.

On the now vacant lot on the northwest corner of the Square, there was a two-story brick building where A. N. McElveen lived. Later, Mrs. Ila Cooper had a hotel there. Next was a wooden building where a Mr. Smith operated a hamburger stand. I worked some for him and made and sold hamburgers for a nickel. Later the building was torn down and a filling station was opened.

Next Williams operated a filling station on this lot and later the station was operated by Leon Chandler.

The corner building was built by Mr. Adam Hall for a General Store more than 100 years ago. The building was later purchased by Ann Perry's grandfather, Felix Grundy Williams, in 1882. The building later became known as Ivy's Tea Room. Ann's mother, Mrs. Ivy Teachout, an expert cook, began serving Sunday suppers in her home on East Main Street, now the East wing of Dilday's Funeral Home, about 1919 or 1920. Miss Ivy, as she was called, always had a booth at the County Fairs around the Court House, selling fried pies, hamburgers, etc. She roasted, peeled, and bagged the first salted peanuts in Huntingdon. They were sold from a basket by a black boy, Jim Boyd, who went to all the stores and the Court House. Miss Ivy was also an expert candy maker. Later she started the Tea Room and upon retirement sold out to Mrs. Fannie Johnson. Later it was sold to Ruth and Edgar Woods. At one time Gordon Browning had his law office upstairs over the Tea Room.

Across Jackson Street from the Tea Room, Romney Ware had his Ford Dealership. Buford Gooch worked as a mechanic for Mr. Ware. In the basement of this building Frank Cequin, father of "Bub" Cequin and Francis Marie Woody, had a machine shop. He later moved into the basement of the Tea Room. Then he moved to a frame building, now the parking lot on 3rd Avenue East. Before Mr. Cequin occupied that building Mr. Sam Holladay had a blacksmith shop.

The next building was the Citizens Bank and when it ceased to operate, W. H. Lassiter, father of Hance Lassiter, opened a poultry house. When the old high school was being built in 1934-35, some classes were held in the then vacant building. Those students who used this building as classrooms still remember the aroma. Later, Douglas Ragland opened a dry cleaning shop in this building and I was working for him for \$20.00 a week when I married. I quit this job to start teaching school for \$78.00 a month in 1942. The school finances were in such a shape at that time, that if you wanted to cash your check, the Bank would do so at a 10% discount.

The next building, now used as the County Library, was the office of Dr. J. B. Cox. Dr. Cox was a tall, fat, red-faced, jovial person. He loved a joke and one of his favorite ones was to ask students what they were studying in school and then he would ask them if they were studying Orthography. He never found a student who would admit to ever having studied that subject. Deward and I used to pick up glass bottles, rinse them out and sell them to Dr. Cox who used them to dispense cough syrup, and other medicinal elixirs. Dr. D. L. King's dentist office was upstairs in this building.

Across the alley was a frame building which housed the "Carroll County Democrat" published by J. B. Gilbert. There was another

frame building adjoining but I cannot recall what it was used for. Next was the Baptist Church. Then the Jail and Calabooze.

On the southwest corner of the Square, now occupied by a filling station, was the Olive hotel. The Hotel, which opened in 1899, was built by Dr. W. M. Wright and named for his daughter, Olive. It was a three story building containing 30 rooms. I picked up laundry from J. T. Hester, Room 22. He threw his laundry behind a big trunk in his room. The door was always unlocked...theft and vandalism were virtually unknown in those days.

Mr. Hester served as Circuit Court Clerk and later as Post Master when the Post Office was between what is now the Rhodes Furniture and the Huntingdon Jewelry Co., in a building now occupied by the Carroll County News. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis M. Richardson are owners and they moved their commercial printing shop downstairs and an office supply store up front.

In those days salesmen, or as they were called "Drummers", traveled by trains and would come to town loaded with trunks of the latest fashions from the big cities. There was a frame building east of the hotel where these wares were exhibited for the local merchants to make their selections. There was a frame building east of the showroom where Bruce Cooper kept his bus that carried passengers and mail to and from the four daily trains.

Later the drummers began to show their goods in the basement on the west side of the Hotel. Mrs. Linnie Carter had her picture show in the vacant building.

When Mrs. Linnie moved her show upstairs in the Court House, Acie McCollum opened a meat market in the front part of this building and a man had a bakery in the back part. I worked for him and one of my jobs was to scrape and clean the big dough mixer. You had to lean way over into the mixer and use a putty knife to scrape off the dried dough. With the temperature always around 120 degrees F, the sweat helped soften the dried dough.

I wrapped the bread, fresh from the oven, in waxed paper. We had a tin trough just the width of a loaf of bread and on each side was an electric iron turned on its side resting against the tin and when a wrapped loaf was put in the trough, the heat melted the wax and sealed the ends of the bread wrapping.

Bakers, it seems, were transient characters and we had several in and out. Our baker liked his nip, so he got two five-gallon chums and made his own "home brew". He finally got it made, bottled and capped. Everything seemed to be going well until one day the heat got too much for the brew and caps started popping and the brew spewed out. I can still remember the smell.

One of Mr. McCollum's boys, Ben, a school-mate of mine, worked up front in his father's meat market. He furnished the hamburger meat and I furnished the buns and the oven to cook them. I would put the hamburger on a tin pan and using the 8-ft. wooden paddle, used to place and remove trays of bread, slide the hamburgers into the oven, and they were done almost by the time they reached the back of the huge oven. That was some mighty good eating.

There was a vacant lot where the post office now stands. Next door was the grocery store of Mr. Jim Johnson. He had a soda fountain in front of the store.

I was told by my father that before the town had a plant to make ice, that the basement of Mr. Johnson's store was used to store ice. Beaver Creek would freeze over during the winter and men would saw out blocks of ice and pack them in sawdust until the next summer.

The next store was the drug store operated by James Patrick, father of Josephine Ware. Mr. Patterson, father of Joe Patterson, worked for Mr. Patrick.

In the basement of the drug store was a barber shop operated by Bill Churchwell. Odell Wyatt worked in this shop, when he first moved to Huntingdon.

Mr. C. M. Watson, who operated the Cotton Gin, had his office in this basement, also. Ernest Francisco, brother of Charles Francisco, worked in the cotton office.

On the southeast corner of the square, John Barrow operated a dry goods store. At that time he only used half of the present store space. Frank Jolley had a cafe in the other part. There was a staircase leading up to the law office of J. T. Peeler and later the office of lawyer and Mayor Robert Murray.

Later, T. Kilzer from Fruitland, TN, took over the Jolley Cafe and named it the Blue Bird Cafe. When Wilder and Atkins built their

Chevrolet dealership on the lot now occupied by the Bank of McMoresville, Mr. Kilzer opened a cafe on their west side. I kept the cafe open until midnight.

Marshall Priest moved his Ford place from the square to his building on Jackson Street. Going north from the Blue Bird Cafe was the jewelry store of E. C. Freeman. When I was a senior in high school, I was the class treasurer. Mr. Freeman told me that if I would collect the ring money he would let me have my ring for \$5.00 instead of the regular price of \$7.50. Next door Mose Priest had a grocery store, now a part of Taylor's Outlet, formerly the National Store. Later Odell Wyatt started a beauty shop in part of this store.

Next was the dry goods store of W. S. and Marshall Priest. Marshall Priest later took over the Fors Dealer ship from Romney Ware.

Turning east down Main Street, my uncle, Otha "Otto" Williams, had a "pig stand" on the spot now occupied by Wyatt's Beauty Shop. For years, the floor was dirt and rats had burrowed holes under the walls to come in at night for their supper. Otto had Homer Demoss to pour concrete floor late one night and the next morning the rats were through the concrete in the same spots as before.

The pig stand offered "pig" sandwiches, hamburgers, and homemade soup. The soup had everything in it except the kitchen sink. Mustard and ketchup were poured into open glasses and a wooden paddle was provided to scoop out the contents. One day a customer said to Otto, "There is a fly in your mustard!" Otto took the paddle and vigorously stirred up the mustard and replied, "I don't see one!"

When the State Restaurant Inspector came to town, Otto would lock the door and take a seat outside in the shade. When the Inspector came by and, finding the door locked and seeing Otto, he asked him where the owner was and he would reply that he had not seen him for several days and guessed that he was on vacation. On Saturdays, farmers would ask Otto where they could get some whiskey and he would tell them to go down to 3rd Avenue and just follow the crowd.

Mr. Ernest Welch sold fruit, mainly bananas, on Saturday and someone would have a big box of leaf tobacco for sale.

The next building was a Kroger Store run by Ben Pritchard. The next building was the Hardware Store of Lewis Johnson. Mr. Johnson had a young nephew, Bill Enochs, who worked for him on Saturdays. Bill liked to play a practical joke and one day he told an old farmer that there was a great demand for cockleburs and presented them to Mr. Johnson. Upon hearing the farmer's story, Mr. Johnson made Bill pay the farmer the price he had quoted him.

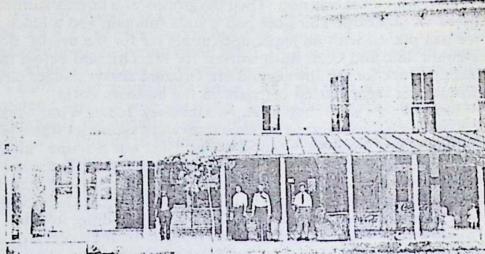
Next door was a frame building which housed a pressing shop run by John Johnson and Otha Williams. Fred Bridgeman was the presser using an overgrown flat iron heated in a charcoal bucket. The next corner building was the Blacksmith Shop of Otha Williams.

About 1930, Jim Wilder built the corner building now occupied by Fred's Store. This building was a U-Tote-Em Store run by J. T. Kennon. In 1932, Howard Tate was transferred here to operate the store. Mr. Kennon then opened a grocery store on 2nd Avenue East. Mr. Tate managed the store for about 10 years and then bought Huntingdon Dry Cleaners from Johnnie Wall.

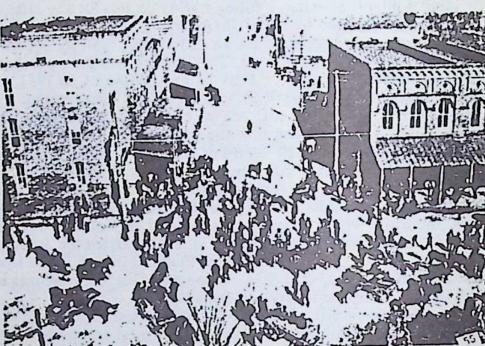
Paul Johnson was Mr. Tate's Main Clerk. Later, Paul moved to Waverly. Howard Tate recalls that Clayton Wall and Justin Compton, both school teachers, worked for him on Saturdays. He recalls that five of Will White's boys, Bill, Ray, Waldon, Jamie, and Tom, worked some for him. Tom remembers Mr. Tate's office being behind some boxes and curtains in the right rear of the store. On the left side there was a storage place where on Saturdays customers could store their groceries until they got ready to leave town.

A boy worked in the space on Saturday and counted and candled eggs bought from the farmers.

Later Jim Wilder had a cut rate Drug Store in this building. Wayne Jones worked for him at the Soda Fountain. He also stocked school books. In the late 30's a man had a bargain dry goods store in this building and I was working for him on Saturdays. I was selling a man a hat, near the back of the store, when my eyes caught sight of a tall, slim, beautiful girl up at the front of the store at the stocking counter. The man I was showing the hat to must have really wanted to buy it, for he followed me up to the stocking counter. I



North side of Court Square Huntingdon



Main Street looking east 1900, post card was mailed on June 10, 1900 from Mrs. Clayton Wilson to Delma Oxford, Holladay, Tennessee.

still had the hat in my hand. After getting a closer look at this beautiful girl, I made up my mind that I would like to buy her stockings for the rest of my life. It has been a joy to do so for the past 45 years.

Across the alley was a frame building used as a display room for drummers staying at the Johnson Hotel. Later Will and Turley Mebane built a filling station on this lot. Behind the station was a frame building used as a cafe by J. B. Hilliard. Next was the old livery stable. Waldon Bennett, brother of Fred Bennett, ran the cafe in this building. Next was the grocery store and meat market of W. V. Radford opened in 1932.

A Mr. Higdon built the corner building and opened a grocery store. Next was the Johnson Hotel, owned by Mrs. Mary Johnson.

HISTORY OF MARCHING MUSTANG BAND

The ancestor of the Marching Mustang Band was born during the 20s when C.E. Doran came to town to organize a school band.

"Prof." Doran, as we called him, had directed a band overseas during World War I. He was a brilliant musician and could develop a top-notch band in record time. Huntingdon had the only band in this section of the state and we played for county fairs, land sales, patriotic events and Confederate Reunions at Memphis and Nashville. We played fairs at Trenton, Savannah, Dresden, Paris, Union City and Fulton, Kentucky.

Band members paid tuition and bought their own instruments and uniforms. The uniforms consisted of a Westpoint type blue jacket and white duck trousers. On fair trips, band members were dismissed from school on Tuesday and returned the following Monday. Band members were paid \$5.00 a day and received free meals and lodgings. At one Trenton fair, Gov. Hillary Horton ate lunch with our band.

The music consisted mainly of march tunes. I wish I could hear the Huntingdon Band play "Stars and Stripes Forever", "March Gloria", and "National Emblem". To me a band on a parade should play nothing but a stirring march tune, not an operatic selection.

Popular music was not neglected, but reserved for fairs and concerts. We played many of the hit songs of the day. One of the novelty tunes of the day was "Barney Google With the Goo-Goo-Googly Eyes" in a more sentimental vein was rendered "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Tuck Me To Sleep In My Old Tucky Home". The band had several members who vocalized those popular tunes. Mildred Jolley, later Mildred Lashlee, mother of John and Frank Lashlee, and Edwin and Ben Humble Hall performed these numbers with band accompaniment.

They were a great hit with the audience.

The principal of the school, D. W. Moody, played a double belled baritone with great enthusiasm. He always accompanied the band on their trips. Mrs. Mary Pudor, Miss Margaret Jenkins, Fred Bennett and Bob Dilday were members of the band.

The band had a business manager, Mr. Allan Eason, who booked engagements for the band. The band paid for a hexagonal band stand on the courthouse lawn located near the present flag pole. We gave concerts each Sunday afternoon during the summer. People, standing or sitting in cars, lined this section of the Square to enjoy the music. When the new courthouse was built, powers in authority saw

fit to tear down the bandstand. To me and other band members, this was a crime of the first order. It was another landmark sacrificed in the name of so-called progress.

I believe it was in 1925, that the band spent two days in Paris, Tennessee where they were celebrating their centennial. They had a pageant on the courthouse lawn and we played appropriate music in the background as the pilgrims landed, Indians danced, and wagon trains moved westward.

One boy in the band, James "Mouse" Woods played a valve trombone. Saturday night, as we prepared to return home, he made the statement that he had enjoyed this trip more than any other we had made and he voiced the hope that Paris would have another centennial celebration the next year.

In the late 30s, I went to the high school and got permission to teach a group of students band instruments; we met in the old gym. Some time later, Mr. Doran was hired by the school board. After I started teaching in 1942, I directed the band several times. One year we won second place at the Strawberry Festival in Humboldt.

Ever so often, someone, somewhere, comes up with a prediction as to when the world will come to an end. One of these predictions was to take place at midnight on a particular Saturday night. This predicted event was common knowledge and was a topic of local conversation and speculation. The band was returning from a trip from some fair and we were traveling by train. This train was scheduled to arrive in Huntingdon about 1 a.m. The train was called the "Pig Train." It carried one passenger car at the end of a freight train. We were at a siding at McKenzie waiting for a through freight to pass by before we could continue on home. It was shortly before the time away. Someone remembered that this was the night that the world was supposed to come to an end. One of the trumpet players got his trumpet and was standing on the back platform of the car and began playing taps, reveille, and other various bugle calls. The telephone office was just across the street from the Depot and the night operator could and did hear these sounds. Knowing about the prediction, she became terrified and called the night operator at Huntingdon and frantically declared the world WAS coming to an end because she could hear Gabriel blowing his trumpet. This story was told to me by Miss Bertha "Bill" Woods, the local operator who also worked for Dr. Roy A. Douglass as his nurse.

SPORTS IN THE 20s AND 30s

There was no organized sports program for children in the 20s and 30s. We were under no pressure from parents; we just got out and played and enjoyed every minute.

During school days, weather permitting, we played baseball and boo-boo-bat during our recess and our one hour lunch period. There was no hot lunch program or vending machines in the school. Some students brought their lunches of cold baked sweet potatoes, cold fried egg sandwiches, ham and biscuit and cocoa and sugar fried pies. Some students walked home for lunch. There were no school buses to transport pupils and some walked long distances to school; some walked miles in all kinds of weather.

Football started again during the 20s and there was lots of passing and kicking of the old pig skin during our play periods. Prof. J.O. Mills, our math teacher, coached football.

He was just out of World War I and he was tough both on the field and in the classroom. Bob Dilday was the quarterback during his high school days. Earl Looney, now deceased, brother of Barbara Powell, was perhaps the best fullback in the history of Huntingdon football.

The uniforms worn by the football players then were primitive compared to the sophisticated equipment used today. The only training equipment we had was a tackling dummy suspended by a rope stretched between two trees. One of the trees is still standing at the back of the old gym.

There was a concrete block building located next to Browning Avenue, which at one time was a dormitory for students attending the Southern Normal University. This building was used as our dressing room. Games were played in a field on what is now Edwards Park.

In those days, you did not have separate offensive and defensive units. You were expected to play the entire game or as long as you could hold up.

In my junior year, I was the twelfth man (boy) on the squad. I sat there alone on that cold, hard bench in my ill-fitting uniform. Our helmets looked like the World War I helmet that Snoopy wears.

I did a lot of praying that no one would get hurt and have to leave the game. Fortunately, they all stayed healthy for the entire season and no substitutions had to be made.

I was about to forget girls' basketball and that would have been a shame. The court was outdoors and the playing surface was dirt mixed with cinders from the boiler room. The fans stood alongside the court and on cold nights would build a bonfire close to the court and alternate between cheering for their teams and trying to warm their hands and feet.

Mrs. Mary Pudor played forward during her school days. The team was coached by Mrs. Lillian Joyner. The girls wore knee-length black satin bloomers, white middy blouses and black cotton stockings. Remember those good old days?

IN THE 20s AND 30s

I would like to add another line or two about girls' basketball in the 20s.

If the team was to play in McLemoresville, they would go to Trezevant by train and be met there by a wagon which would carry them to McLemoresville. They went to Lexington also by train, going first to Hollow Rock Junction, now Bruceton, and change trains to Lexington.

To realize how the girls' uniforms have been abbreviated over the years, I am reminded of the story of a huntingdon player who

rolled her black cotton stockings down below her knees, but, of course, the black bloomers dropped down and covered this bare part of the leg. The principal, Prof. DW. Moody, happened to be watching the practice this particular afternoon and when our daring young player jumped to make a 1920 type dunk, her shin was exposed to Prof. Moody's sharp eyes. He immediately called the coach, Mrs. Lillian Joyner, aside and told her to send the girl home to meditate on her unlady-like behavior.

MORE REFLECTIONS ON THE 20s and 30s

As one gets older, our mind tends to reflect on past events and conditions and to compare them with the present days. One frequently hears some "old timer" refer to what he calls the "good old days." I am sure that modern young people would not like to revert to the conditions of the 20s and 30s, but to us who grew up in this period, they were and still are to us the "good old days."

Huntingdon, in the 20s and 30s, was a relatively quiet, peaceful little community with no major problems as face our town today. There were no televisions, drive-in movies, motels, night clubs, supermarkets, air conditioning, electric or gas stoves. Cooking was done on a wood, kerosene or coal burning black stove. If you wanted hot water in your home, water pipes were run through the firebox of your kitchen stove and connected to a cylindrical metal water tank located at the rear of the stove.

Clothes washing was done by hand using a washboard and a galvanized tub and plenty of P and G, Oxydol or lye soap. Clothes were rung out by hand. Clothes were boiled outdoors in a cast iron kettle. Later manually operated wringers were used. Then came the electric wringer type of washers. Ironing was done by hand with a flat iron heated on the kitchen stove or in a charcoal bucket. Most everyone took a bath on Saturday night whether they needed it or not.

Air conditioning was accomplished by opening all the doors and windows and by using plenty of elbow grease to operate a palm leaf or funeral parlor fan.

At least life seemed to be simpler and more relaxed. People used to have time to sit on their porches or in their yards and enjoy the company of their family members or neighbors. There were few automobiles and really, they were not needed for anyone could walk to work and church and there was no place to go. I recall a story once told to me by a woman who was a teenaged girl during the

20s. She said that her boyfriend was one of a very few who had a car, but he when came to get her to take her to the picture show, he had to park his car at her house and they walked to the show.

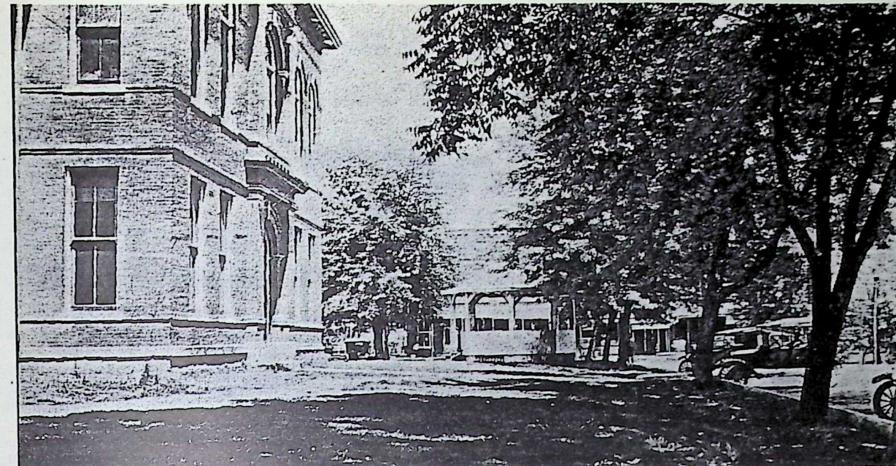
A few people had battery-operated radios and owners would keep a log of stations they could tune in and would brag to each other about tuning in WLW or some station on the West Coast. My brother, Deward, and I had one of the first sets in town. Some youngsters, like Charles Francisco and Martin Dill, could take a crystal and wrap wire around a Quaker oatmeal box and make a radio, but it was all Greek to me.

Mr. Harry Darling, a typesetter for the CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRAT newspaper, lived down the street from me on East Paris Street. He had a massive console radio, the best in town. During the world series baseball game, he would invite his neighbors and friends into his living room and we breathlessly followed every play, pulling for the New York Yankees and, of course, "The Mighty Bambino," Babe Ruth.

Mr. Darling lived across the street from what is now Wilson's Clinic in the spot which is now used as a parking lot. He married one of the Gattan sisters who were known all over the county as expert rug weavers. They had a huge wooden loom in one room of their home and made beautiful rugs out of scrap cloth.

Mr. Darling was the smartest dresser in Huntingdon. He always looked like he had stepped from a page in a men's fashion magazine. His outfit consisted of neatly pressed pinstripe trousers, a long, black swallow-tailed coat, like Johnny Cash's, and a black derby hat tilted at just the right angle.

Mr. C.H. Pudov said that upon coming to Huntingdon and on his first visit to the public square, the first person to catch his eye and make an impression on him was Mr. Harry Darling.



The Old Bandstand

By J. LEROY TATE SR.

I would like to thank Mrs. Ruth Obbs for the picture of the old Huntingdon High School Bandstand on the Court House lawn. The bandstand was paid for out of money made by the band. It was built by Mr. Forney about 1922 or 1923.

I have tried to list all the people who were in the original band. I would like to thank Fred Bennett and Mr. Ben Humble Hall for helping me try to recall all these members. If I have left out anyone, either living or deceased, I apologize.

Our band director was Mr. C.E. Doran. We called him either professor or Mr. Charlie Prof. Doran was an excellent band director, but he was like many of us, a little bit on the lazy side. We lived in a house where the City Hall now stands. Back in those days most everybody walked to work and to school. There were several ways to walk from his home to school and he tried them all until he found the path that required the least number of steps.

Our clarinet section was led by Myers Allen. Other players were Margaret Jenkins, Kerr Dilday, Mary Johnson, Ben Humble Hall, Romney Ware, and Leroy Tate on B Flat Clarinet. Bob Dilday was our E Flat player.

The alto horn section had Finley Johnson, Ammon Pitts, Huell "Huck" Todd and Deward Tate. Alto horns were referred to as "Peck" horns.

Neill Allison, "Doc" Wright and Fonwell Freeman played saxophones.

The trombone section had Mildred Jolley, Charlie Carter, Murray "Doc" Gill, and Leslie Johnson.

They could really slip and slide on the tunes that featured the trombone section. I recall "Lassus Trombone," "Trombone Blues," "Shouting Liza," and others. James "Mouse" Woods played valve trombone.

On baritone horn was Prof. DW. Moody, Principal of our school, and Howard "Rab" Jolley.

Joe Bennett played the upright bass horn and John F. Jolly played the sousaphone.

Fred Bennett was our lone but loud snare drummer. Robert "Fatty" Bennett beat the big bass drum.

The trumpet section was led by Lynn Bonds, who later enlisted in a branch of the armed services and retired after many years of playing his trumpet in a service band. Other trumpet players were Edwin Hall, Buford Thompson, Verdell Demoss, and Robert Pitts.

The Carroll County Fair used to be around the Court Square and our band played several times a day during fair week. Our music

seemed to be appreciated, as large crowds lined the sidewalks and Court House lawn. I had a letter several years ago from Curtis Tate Jr., who then lived in Trezevant, now a professor at the University of Georgia. He recalled, as a child, hearing the band perform during fair week.

I recall an event that took place several years after Prof. Doran left town and the band members had all finished school. Some were still in town. Others had moved on to other places. It was fair week again, and there was no band to furnish music from the bandstand to the many people of the county who attended the fair.

I spent a lot of time with my buddy, Bob Dilday, in the office of Dilday's Funeral Home, where The Thomas Shop is now located.

Mr. Marshall Priest, the local Ford dealer and president of the Fair Association, came into the office and told Bob and me that many people were disappointed that there was no band music and had complained to him. It was a Saturday morning and he asked us if there was any way we could get a group together and play a few tunes to satisfy the crowd gathered around the bandstand. He also wanted to know how much we would charge Bob and I did some "side talking" and came up with a round figure of \$50. When we quoted this figure to Mr. Priest, we had a few anxious moments, because he really hit the ceiling. We were afraid that he was going to have a stroke or a heart attack. He stormed out the front door, slamming it behind him. Bob and I, relieved, turned back to our conversation.

In about 30 minutes, Mr. Priest returned and handed us a check for \$50. Bob and I hurriedly rounded up about 10 band members and we played about a dozen numbers and that was the last band music in the old bandstand.

I have a book of poems entitled "Tennessee Bubbles" written by David Moore of Milan. He was an uncle of Mrs. Ben H. Jamison, in whose house we lived while I was growing up.

Here is his poem, "Our Bandstand":

*'Twas not our aim to seek for fame and that's not our excuse;
We built the stand for our boy band, an ornament for use.
With civic pride we did provide this spacious pretty bandstand!
It's high design is to refine our handy, dandy bandstand.*

*Our band boys there, with concerts rare, our people entertain;
Their weekly "meets" dispense sweets, that made us young again.
Behold it there, upon the square, a ready cozy grandstand!
Pride of each one, in Huntingdon, our handy, dandy bandstand.*

The Story Of A Civil War Episode

By. J. LEROY TATE

Reprinted from the Tennessee Republican, May 5, 1933

I would like to correct two mistakes that were made in a recent article. I wrote about the unique HONOR that belonged to Collis Williams as being the last student to receive a diploma in the old high school building. I'm sure it was my poor penmanship because the word HONOR came out in the paper as HORROR. I apologize to Hollis.

Prof. D.W. Moody was the principal and the picture showed J.O. Conwell was the principal. Mr. Conwell was a teacher at this time but later became principal after Mr. Moody left the school.

Most of the information in the rest of this article comes from local attorney, Jimmie Lee Taylor. Jimmie Lee's father, Jim Taylor, was a Union soldier during the Civil War. He was in company I (eye) 7th Tenn. Calvary. My grandfather, Elisha Tate, was also a member of this same company. My older boy, Leroy Tate Jr., of Marietta, GA., has the Sharpe's carbine that his great-grandfather carried during the war. The gun is stamped "new model 1863".

This company was under the command of Capt. Sam Hawkins. According to Jimmie Lee, Company I had three men all named Jim Taylor and as a further coincidence all three of them lived on what is now known as Rowland Mills Road out of Bruceton.

To distinguish between the three Jim Taylors, Jimmie Lee's father was nicknamed "Battle Axe". "Block" Jim Taylor was the grandfather of Parnell Taylor and the third was called "Red".

Company I was at Union City and received orders to go towards Clarksburg heading for Shiloh, but at Parker's Crossroads, they were attacked by a group of Confederate soldiers from the command of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. Company I was driven back north and received orders to go to Hickman, KY., to board boats to go to Vicksburg, MS. Gen. Forrest's troops followed the retreating Federals who took refuge in a fort in Union City.

Capt. Hawkins, realizing that his men were at the mercy of the Confederate soldiers, surrendered without a struggle, contrary to the wishes of his troops.

The captured Union soldiers set out for Andersonville Prison in Ga. Among the prisoners was Jimmie Lee's father and "Block" Jim Taylor. "Block" Jim Taylor escaped somewhere along the journey.

In the summer of 1863, the Federal authorities ended an agreement with the South under which captives were exchanged. There were so many Federal prisoners at Richmond, VA., that their number constituted a danger to the South both because of their number and also because they presented a serious food problem.

In Nov., 1863, a site was selected at Andersonville for a Federal prison. The prison operated from Feb., 1864 until the end of the war. The prison was an open enclosure of 27 acres surrounded by a wall of 20-foot pine posts, set 8-feet into the ground to prevent prisoners from escaping by tunneling under them.

Prisoners were put in Andersonville before adequate accommodations and barracks were provided. Jimmie Lee's father was a prisoner

there for 14 months. According to Mr. Taylor, prisoners received poor, sometimes uncooked food. Many prisoners were fatigued and diseased when they arrived at the prison. In six months, 42,686 cases of diseased and wounded soldiers were treated by an inadequate medical staff and field hospital.

During the war, 49,485 Federal soldiers were imprisoned there. All of them were privates. Overcrowding, exposure, impure water, absence of proper sanitation, and shortage of food and medical care caused the death of 13,700 men in 13 months. At one time, the death rate was 150 a day.

The prison was designed to hold 10,000 men, but at one time it contained 33,000 men. The men lived in tents or crude huts with no floors. Many slept out on a bare ground.

Mr. Taylor said that there was a stream which ran through the prison grounds which at first was a source for drinking water, but as time passed, it became so polluted from garbage and human waste that it became unfit for drinking.

Jimmie Lee's father said that each man had his own particular spot of ground. They were free to move around during the day, but when darkness came, each man returned to his own spot of ground.

There was a "dead" line about 20 feet from the stockade walls and no prisoners dared to cross this line for fear of being shot by guards stationed in towers along the walls.

Conditions at Andersonville were so bad that Sec. of War Edwin M. Stanton ordered retaliation on Confederate prisoners held in Union camps. The prison superintendent at Andersonville, Capt. Henry Wirz, was convicted after the war by a United States Military Court and was hanged in Nov., 1865.

I have a letter written by a kinsman of mine, Joseph Dixon Pickett, who fought on the Confederate side and was captured and sent to a Federal prison at Camp Chase, OH., where he died. He is buried at Liberty All cemetery on Old Stage Road.

Mr. Taylor told of one period of critical water shortage that a spring burst forth between the "dead" line and the prison walls. Some prisoners hollowed out a pine sappling and, as the spring was located in a hilly section, they were able to push the sappling across the "dead" line to the spring. Mr. Taylor said he was the third man to drink from this spring.

The prisoners named the spring "The Providential Spring".

When the war ended, the prisoners were not released by the Confederate officers. It was only after the prisoners realized that the Confederates had abandoned the prison that they broke down the gates and were free.

Mr. Taylor walked the railroad tracks to Chattanooga and then returned home.

Mr. Taylor told Jimmie Lee that while near Clarksburg that he was put in command of the squad to scout for Confederate positions. They ran across an enemy squad and took them prisoners.

CHITTERLINGS
every Wed.noon 49c

49c That's All

NOON TIME
Plate Lunch

Including coffee or tea and dessert

Mr. Fred Bennett, Jr., who has served this section as well as resort hotels in Florida is now in charge of our kitchen.

HOTEL CARROLL

Parking Lot at Rear for Guests

THE COFFEE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON SATUR-DAYS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

LEWIS F. JOHNSON AD

The Day I Skipped School

By J. LEROY TATE SR.

Several years ago the 1934 graduating class of Huntingdon High School honored former principal D. W. Moody by hanging his portrait in the high school. Professor Moody was principal from 1919-1937. This event brought back many memories of Professor Moody who was a rare combination of educator, scholar, and teacher. He was an imposing physical figure, about 6-feet 5-inches and as his pupils knew, a strict disciplinarian. He could walk into a noisy assembly and immediately one could hear a pin drop on the floor.

His human side was evidenced in one way by playing baritone in the high school band, directed by professor C. E. Doran. He got as much pleasure out of playing John Phillip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" as did his students.

One personal experience with Professor Moody came to my mind. When I was a senior in 1930, the local school was host to the Carroll County Teachers Association. The meeting was to take place in the auditorium on the third floor at 2:00 p.m. All our teachers were expected to attend, so they gave us busy work to do in our homeroom.

Several senior students decided to skip school and did so by going out the east side of the building. Bob Dilday and I lived to the West so we chose that route to escape. Everything went lovely until the next morning when our teacher told Bob Dilday and me that Professor Moody wanted to see us in his office. This message was enough to strike terror in my heart. Bob had been called to the office so many times he was not as upset as I was.

Bob and I approached his office slowly, trying to prepare myself for the thrashing I knew was coming. I dreaded it because I bruised easily. We entered the open door and stood in front of his desk, first on one foot and then on another. Professor Moody sat at his desk, head bowed, busy over some papers lying before him. After what seemed to be an eternity, he looked up; his face, which became flushed when he was upset, seemed its normal color. Looking us over carefully, he finally said, "What do you boys want?" We told

him that our teacher had told us that he wanted to see us.

Professor Moody replied that there must be some mistake as he had never laid eyes on either of us before. Bob was valedictorian and I was salutatorian of our senior class and visions of my diploma taking wings and flying away flashed before my eyes. I thought also of the scriptural verse where Jesus said, "Depart from me, for I never knew you!"

I tried to explain that we were his students and in his American History Class, so surely he knew us. He stated again that he had never seen us before. The seriousness of the situation was beginning to become visible as Professor Moody's face began to take on a rosy hue. I began to plead for recognition saying that surely he knew me for I picked up his laundry every week. Pleas fell off deaf ears. He asked our names and I said I was Leroy Tate and that my father, Joe Tate, worked at Mrs. Ben H. Jamison's Dry Good Store. Bob remembered his name and told Professor Moody that his father was R. F. "Bob" Dilday and was the local undertaker.

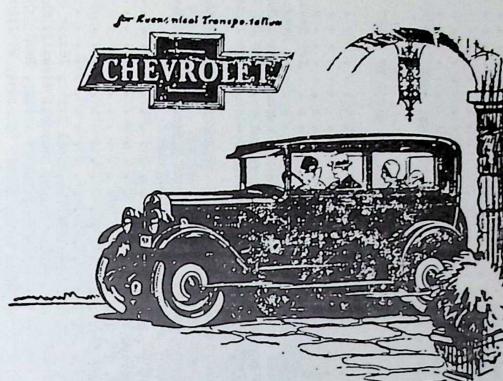
Professor Moody considered this information and confessed to knowing Joe Tate and Mr. Dilday. So he suggested that if we were who we claimed to be, they would have to come up to school and identify us.

I had gone into his office expecting to be whipped and that punishment would have been light compared to the tongue lashing I knew would be coming from my father when I went to the store and told him what had happened.

This happened over 50 years ago, but I can remember nearly every step up Clark Street and many of the words my father used at each step. We entered Professor Moody's office and he greeted my father with extended hand and said, "Hello, Joe!" As they chatted, I glanced out the west window and saw Bob and Mr. Dilday trudging up to campus.

It looked like Mr. Dilday was carrying on a very serious one-sided conversation with his son. I will always remember how ridiculous it looked and I was glad that I had gotten back first.

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Wherever the Bigger and Better Chevrolet is driven, it is singled out for attention and comment.

Its low-swung bodies are built by Fisher, with all the mastery in design and craftsmanship for which the Fisher name is famous. Beautifully headed and panelled . . . stream-lined on a wheelbase of 107 inches . . . and finished in gorgeous colors

The Roadster or Touring . . . \$495
The Coach . . . \$585
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Utility Truck . . . \$495
(Chassis Only)

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All prices, f. o. b. Flint, Michigan

of genuine, long-lasting Duco—they rival the costliest custom creations . . . not only in brilliance of execution, but in richness and completeness of appointments as well.

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Scates Chevrolet Co., McKenzie, Tenn.
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QUALITY AT LOW COST

A PROGRAM GIVEN BY THE HUNTINGDON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN 1926

PROGRAM

given by

Huntingdon Grammar School
High School Auditorium
Thursday, May 6, at 8 P.M.

Part I - "The Golden Whistle"

By Primary Grades

CAST OF CHARACTERS

"THE DOLLS' SYMPOSIUM"
Madam Krunchki, a prima donna Margaret Bonds
Madam Krunchki, a prima donna Pauline Hickman
Saleswoman, who sells Phi Di Furnace Mary Mitchell Johnson
Pianist, who plays well Orla Watson
Mrs. Bell, a townswoman Josephine Britt
Mrs. Lee, a townswoman Opal Britt
Kira, Lottamore, a wealthy society woman Jessie Campbell
Novelist, who uses big words Martha Johnson
United States Inspector of Schools Annie Roth
Jack Tar Jack Tar
Storekeeper's Little Daughter Storekeeper's Little Daughter
Rag Dolls Rag Dolls
Dorothy Barnall,

PROGRAM

By Huntingdon Grammar School
Thursday Evening, April 30
8 O'Clock

"THE MOON QUEEN"

An Operetta in Two Acts

CAST OF CHARACTERS
The Sun Norman Darnall
The Moon Eleanor Nebane
North Star B. C. Joyner, Jr.
Evening Star Paye Barnhill
Morning Breeze Lea Bennett Dill
Evening Breeze Harry Pitts
Summer Cloud Eugenia Freeman
Summer Showers E. H. Edwards, Jr.
The Rainbow Garland Priest, Jr.
Prince Sunbeam Bill Harwell
Princess Sunbeam Paye Barnhill
Chorus of Stars Lea Bennett Dill
Kelskill, Iris Traylor, Margaret Carter, Lucy Butler, Raymond Giles, Robert Giles, James McLeomore, Arthur Wilson, Jr., Robert Harold Hickman, J. Sam Kee, Fred Ivey
Chorus of Clouds and Breezes Opal Key, Lucy Putley, Elizabeth Crawford, Hilma Williams, Lucile Vaughn, Irene Johnson, Marjorie Todd, J. Wesley Williams, Jr., Thomas McCollum, Gordon Wilder, Jr., Marshall Priest, Jr., James Lessiter, James Heddren, Andrew Johnson, Harry Butler, Raymond Giles, Robert Giles, James McLeomore, Arthur Wilson, Jr., Robert Harold Hickman, James Allen, Billy Edwards, Anna Lou Watson, Eddie Elizabeth Lucas, Christine Traylor, Olga Giles, Katharine Johnson, Elsie Nolles, Edith Tate, Joella Fickett, Susan Crawford, Martha Traylor, Jennie Lee McCollum, Lucretia Dill, Dorothy Clement.
Chorus of Raindrops Chorus of Sunbeams

SONG AND DANCE BY DARKY DOLLS

Topsy Frances McCollum
Dinah Frances Woods
Sambu Carmen Barnhill
Notion Exercise by Baby Dolls Margaret Barnhill
Performance by Teddy Bears Ivy Nell Crawford, Ben Robin Redbreast Katherine Johnson
Fairy Queen David Moody, Jr.
White Rabbit Susie Crawford
Little Wild Rose Susie Crawford
Roses Margaret Carter, Lucile Kenyon, Dorothy Clements, Faye Barnhill, Virginia Forney, Mary Lee Lowe, Mary Lee Williams, Lorene Tooh, Eleanor Melane Flora Bell, Hillard, Christine Brasfield, Martha Traylor, Jennifer Lee McCollum, Joe Dill, Robert Dill, Dorothy Dill, Dorothy McCollum, Maxie McLeodore Williams, Lucretia Dill, Dorothy McCollum, Elsie Nolles.
Fairies Louise Brooks, Alice Mae Priest, Volla Freeman, Ruth Ray Ward, Jean Douglass, Nancy Crawford, Edith Carter, Margaret Ann Jenkins, Bill Harwell, U. J. Kee, Tom McCollum, James Allen, Marshall Allen, Frank Teachout, Jane Nebane, James McLeodore, Billie Edwards, L. D. Lewis, Harry Butler, Bill Kemron, Andrew Johnson, Joseph McCollum, Robert Harold Hickman, J. Sam Kee, Fred Ivey.

"THE JUNIOR MINSTRELS"

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Topsy Inez Carlton
Aunt Jemmy Frances Joyner
Rooster Isabella McLeodore
Old Black Joe Willie Murray Jarrett
Director Glenn DeMoss
Chorus Pauline Kee, Opal Britt, Jessie Campbell, Ruth Petty, Pauline Chisholm, Cromwell Tidwell, Margaret Bonds, Martha Johnson, Robert Dillay, Paul Johnson, Madie Harwell, Annie Roth, Eloise Williams, William Enoch, Leroy Tate.
"THE JUNIOR MINSTRELS"

STORY
"The Golden Whistle," awakening after a nap in the woods, sees before him The Little Old Woman. After talking to him she gives him the Golden Whistle. He soon finds that whenever he blows it, all the Fairy Folks of the woods, as well as Birds, Flowers, and even Butterflies, appear. In playing the Golden Whistle is lost and stolen by the White Rabbit. The Tosses summon to Befo and the Fairy Queen herself. The Little Old Woman returning to the Fairy Queen releases her from the evil enchantment, which had been over her, and throwing off the long cloak, she stands revealed, a lovely young girl.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
Befo, Norman Darnall
Golden Manic Frances Woods
Golden Bearer Margaret Barnhill
"Yankee Doodle" William Dill
"Mamie" Frances McCollum
"High Columbia" Isabelle Bennett
"Indian" - "From the Land of the Sky Blue Water" Nancy Sue Carter
"Nero" - "Dixie" Dorothy Edwards
"Virginia" - "Dixie" Mary Leone Hickman
"Native Americans of the Republic" Natalie Darnall
"Cowboy" Songs -
1. "Cowboy's Lament" Paul Johnson
2. "Sweet Bye and Bye" Edwin Williams
3. "The Bold Vaquero" Alton Mayrwick
4. "Out Where the West Begins" Anna Ivey
Soldier Songs -
1. "Over There" Nedra Harwell
2. "The Long Long Trail" Cromwell Tidwell
3. "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" James Butler
4. "Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" Wallace Butler
Sailor Songs - "Sailing" - 1. Talmage Bennett, 2. Marshall Bennett, 3. Maurice Leonard, 4. Clyde Palmer
"Tennessee" Elizabeth Peeler

GRAND FINALE

PART III - "THE EIGHTEEN GRADE"

SYNOPSIS

Prophecy of the Eighth Grade, twenty years from 1926

ACT I. Huntingdon Mayor's Office twenty years hence.

ACT II. The Mayor's Office, ACT III. Reception room of Mrs. Lottamoney's home.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
Governor, who has been invited to lay corner stone Robert Dillay
Mayor, who presides over City Council Charles Townes
Commissioner of Justice - Member of Council Walter Duncan
Commissioner of Streets - Member of Council Elmer Williams
Commissioner of Health and Superintendent of City Schools - very punctual woman Pauline Chisholm
Chief of Police, who has little to do Glenn DeMoss
City Librarian, who understands human nature Ben McCollum
Editor, who wants the city printing James Carlton
Captain, who likes to fly fast Mary Katherine Kee
Captain, who likes to fly fast Matilda Sue Butler
Inspector of Jails, who tries to break into jail Fred Palmer
Movie Actress, who dances Inez Carlton
Mrs. Benson, mother of seven children Frances Joyner

PART II - PAGEANT - "AMERICAN SONGS"

By The Seventh Grade

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Margaret Barnhill
Harriet Johnson
William Brooks
Martin Dill
Frances McCollum
Isabelle Bennett
Nancy Sue Carter
Dorothy Edwards
Mary Leone Hickman
Natalie Darnall
Paul Johnson
Alton Mayrwick
Anna Ivey
Nedra Harwell
Cromwell Tidwell
James Butler
Wallace Butler
Talmage Bennett
Marshall Bennett
Maurice Leonard
Clyde Palmer
Elizabeth Peeler

The Grand Leader

Practice Thrift Saturday----and All Next Week in Our
“Need the Money Sale”

It is impossible to picture and describe all the wonderful surprises we have in store for you. We invite you to call and look 'em over

Heavy 8-ounce Bed Ticking, guaranteed feather-proof, yard 25c
Conestogo Bed Ticking guaranteed feather-proof, yard 29c
Hong Kong and Sand Shade Work Shirts \$1.50 and 89c
Genuine Elk Skin Plow Shoes, value \$3.45, pair \$2.39
All Leather Work Shoes, value \$3.45, pair \$2.39
Heavy 56-60 count Brown Domestic, yard 10c
Blue Defiance Chevoit Work Shirts, each 69c
Standard Quality 32-inch Gingham, yard 10c
Rockford Seamless Work Sox, pair 10c
No. 26 O'Bryan Overalls, pair \$1.79
36-inch Prints, 25c quality, yard 19c
Crisp New 25c Gingham, yard 19c
Big Buck Work Shirts, each 89c

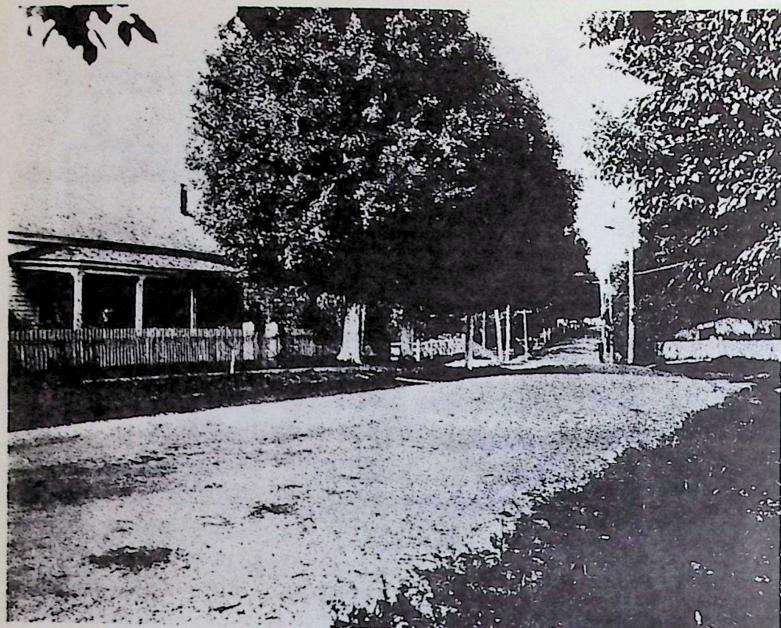
New arrivals Spring Frocks and Coats that will capture your eye and heart at one glance. Suits of separate skirts with tuck in blouse will please you

Priest & Priest

‘My Home Town’

**A Reprint
Of Some Of The Articles
By Francis Enochs Bush**

**Originally Published In 1972
For Huntingdon's Sesquicentennial**



My Home Town

FRANCES ENOCHS BUSH

Many years ago, Bill McCracken, his wife "Miss Matt", his daughter Beulah, and his son T. Mack lived on Nashville Street (East Main) on the corner of what is now Sixth Avenue. "Miss Matt" grew many pretty, blooming flowers in her yard which added to the charm of the frame home, pictured above.

In the 1930's, Mebane Bros. and Company operated a service station where the McCracken house had stood. Others operating a station there were Harris Norwood, J. Clinton Butler and W. F. McCollum. Later, Ernest Welch purchased the property and erected a beautiful, colonial residence. It is now owned by Virgil Blackwell.

The following poem was composed by the late C. C. "Peck" Walters, a neighbor of the McCrackens, and uncle of Miss Anna Marie Walters, who resides in the Walters home.

"WHEN BEULAH MILKS THE COW"

In the morning, early at the rising of the sun,
Beulah goes a milking, there's sure to be some fun.
She ain't so awful handsome, but I can tell you now,
There'll certainly be some rubbering when Beulah milks
the cows.

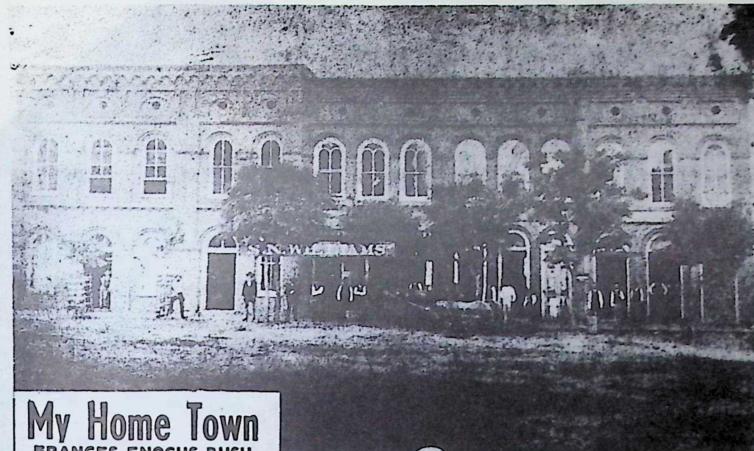
She makes a pretty picture in her basque of blue,
Her pa's brown hat and shirt of another hue.
She comes out with a bucket and everything's ready now.
We know there's something doing, when Beulah milks the cow.

How loudly she yells, "Daisy" and "Billy, rope the calf!"
While gesticulating in the window, sits his better half.
She's squalling and she's bawling and there's sure to be a row.
Billy ropes the little calf, and Beulah milks the cow.

Hark, what is that deafening shriek that almost drives us mad?
Be calm, it's only Beulah yelling, "Rope more. Hope, dad!"
And Bill, he goes a kiteing while she yells, "Be quick, now."
He knows he's got to hustle when Beulah milks the cow.

There's ripping and there's tearing across the lot and back,
If Daisy ain't forthcoming to meet the noisy pack.
It makes you feel quite skittish and then you want to bow,
And ask for protection, when Beulah milks the cow.

But when her toil is over and her work on earth is done,
We think that for her patience, a crown above she's won.
Her homeliness won't be thought of as before the throne we bow,
And we'll never again refer to the time, When Beulah milked
the cow.



My Home Town

FRANCES ENOCHS BUSH

In Huntingdon, during the early 1890's, if a Southern Normal University student, or anyone else, went up town, (he either walked on the board walks, or dusty or muddy streets; or rode in a hack or buggy; or on horseback), he saw the East Side of Court Square as it appears in the photograph above. The buildings are familiar to us today because they remain much like they were. Most of the changes that have been made were to the entrances on the ground floors. The National Store, Jim House Shoe Store and Shop, and Barrow's Department Store are the present businesses on this block.

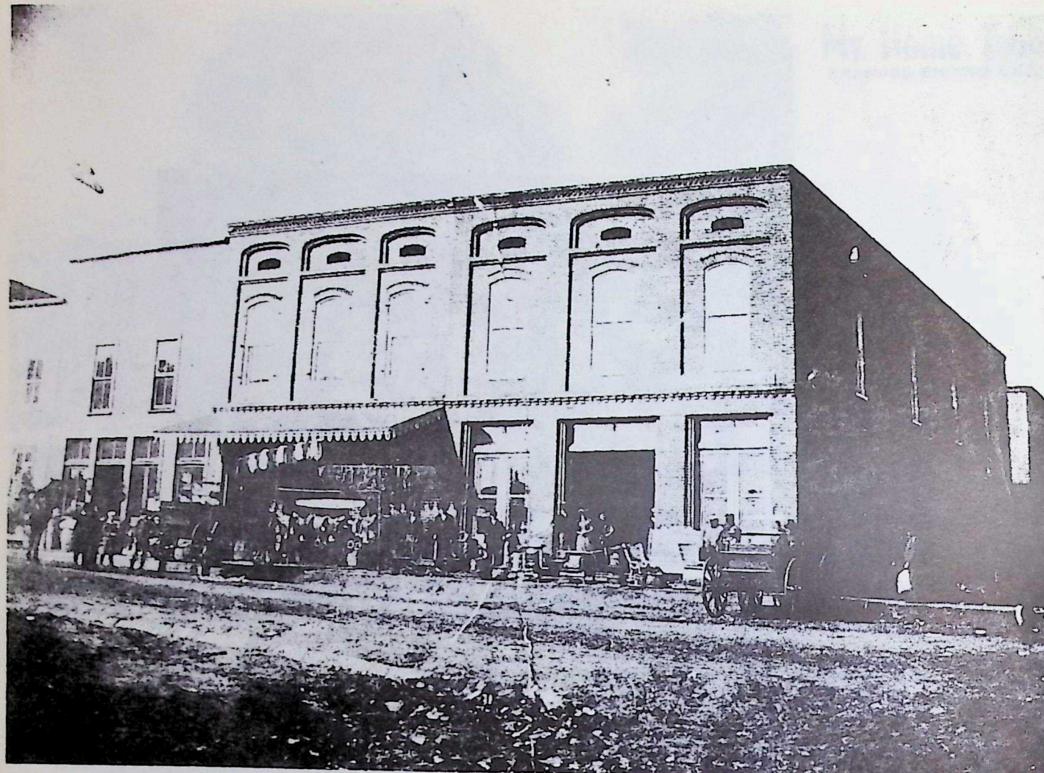
Priest's Dry Goods Store and Priest's Grocery occupied the buildings on the north end, (left side of picture), of this section. The bricks used in the construction of these stores came from the kiln of Franklin Priest (father of Will S. Priest), which was located about a half-block north, down the hill, approximately where the Patterson home is now located. The late Mrs. C. A. Teachout (Miss Ivy) happily recalled many times her attendance at barn dances on this spot. Dancing on the sawdust was glorious fun for the young people.

The store in the photograph bearing the sign "S. N. Williams" was a "Staple and Fancy Dry Goods Store." Mr. Williams advertised: "The Great Quality, the

Large Quantity, the Least Price" and "All are invited to inspect the mammoth stock at the Palace Store." Among the items offered were: "Dress Goods; Trimmings; Stiff Hats (a specialty); Young Men's Overcoats; Flannels and Blankets, the largest line ever offered in Huntingdon at prices which no other house can afford to sell; an endless number of simple Shoulder Capes and Wraps for the ladies, in all their modifications; Boots and Shoes; and a Notion Department which might well be christened, "omnium gatherum" of the Palace Store."

B. J. Williams, who died in 1935, was the son of S. N. Williams, and for a while, following his father's death, operated the store. Newt Williams, formerly of Huntingdon, but now a Nashville resident, is the son of B. J. Williams. His wife is the former Sibbie Furman.

A few of the business and professional men in Huntingdon in 1893 were: E. H. Johnson, Grocer; W. B. Fry, Jeweler; F. E. Johnson, Grocer; Sam Bennett, Grocer; J. H. Dilday, Lumber Dealer; W. N. Collins, Barber; Pomp Cochran, Barber; W. H. Carter was the Undertaker; R. B. Harris, Dentist—Office over the Bank of Huntingdon; George T. McCall, Jo. R. and H. N. Hawkins, and H. C. Townes, Attorneys-at-law; J. W. McCall, W. M. Wright, and W. N. Enoch, the Physicians.



PICTURED ABOVE IS THE Crews and Nesbitt Building as it was seen in 1896. At that time the building was occupied by Joe McCracken. The two women at the far right are the late Mrs. Linnie M. Carter and the late ~~Mr.~~ Ernest Hilliard. ^{Miss}



My Home Town

By FRANCES ENOCHS BUSH

On a very cold night of January, 1906, Huntingdon had a narrow escape from a most destructive fire. There was "praise on the lips of everyone" for the stubborn and persistent fighting to save the buildings by the fire company with W. L. Fowler as captain and the efficient services rendered by Mr. Landrum at the power house in furnishing water pressure. A local paper stated that, "The pressure was unusually strong. The pistol shooting and bell ringing could not be heard above the din of the machinery."

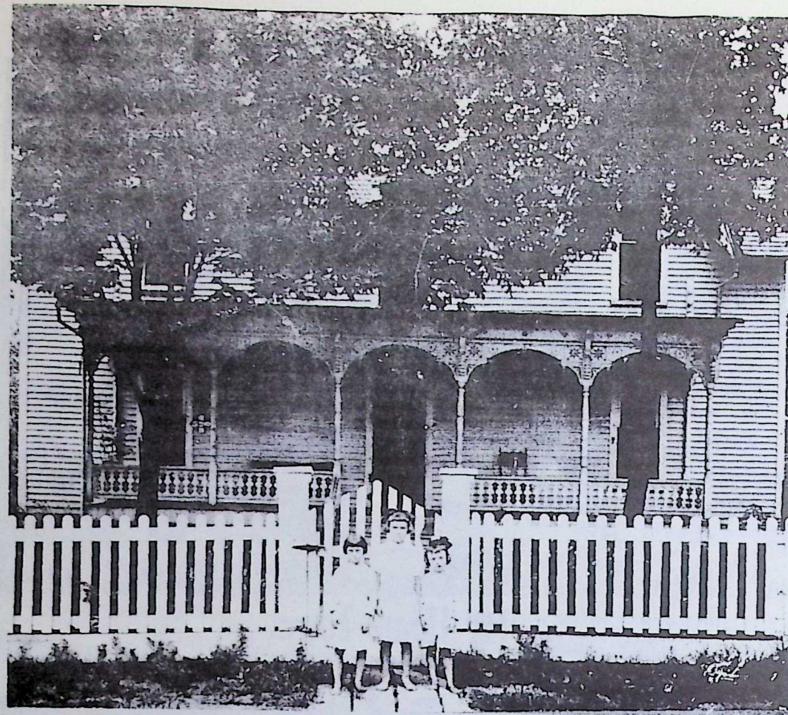
The fire broke out at about 11:15 p.m., originating in the basement of Neely and Gardner, "clothers and gents' furnishers" in the three-story Johnson Opera House Block, the present site of the Bank of Huntingdon. At that time, the building was occupied by the Huntingdon Drug Co. on the first floor and on the second floor by the Carroll County Democrat office, Cumberland Telephone exchange, Dr. W. N. Enochs, J. N. Freeman shoe shop, and Browder Moore barber shop and large auditorium. Also, there was a pressing club on this floor. The conflagration threatened to wipe out the entire business block which consisted of the Johnson Opera House building, Carter and Fowler building (now Carter & Co.), and the Bank of Huntingdon building which is now the Maddox & Chance Insurance and D. D. Maddox, Attorney-at-Law offices.

Miss Maud Davidson, night operator at the telephone exchange, was sleeping in the exchange office on the second floor and was awakened by the smoke and fire so she and her eleven-year-old brother were forced to

climb out a window to the awning. Telling her little brother to cling to her back, the plucky girl reached a telephone pole two feet from the awning and managed to reach the ground without accident. In her night clothes and bare-footed she ran to the Hotel Olive crying, "Fire!" Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Tidwell were living at the hotel at that time. Mr. Tidwell was out-of-town, but Mrs. Tidwell on hearing the cry for help ran eight blocks through the frigid night on ice-coated streets to the power house and notified Mr. Landrum.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore who occupied the second floor of the Johnson building were aroused by the smoke and found that escape was impossible by way of the stairs. Mr. Moore secured a rope kept in their room for such an emergency tied one end about his wife and lowered her to the ground. He then "threw out their effects until forced by the heat and smoke to descend the rope."

"Miss Davidson and Mrs. Tidwell," stated one of the local papers, "came in for much genuine praise and both of these ladies will always have a warm place in the hearts of the people of Huntingdon for their heroism in behalf of the town." The ladies at the Hotel Olive assisted by a Mr. Castlemann and Mr. W. B. Fry started a benefit fund for Miss Davidson and her brother, who were orphans, and presented her with a purse containing \$50 as a "slight token of the town's appreciation of her heroism." Dr. Cromwell Tidwell of Nashville, formerly of Huntingdon, says that his mother, Mrs. Tidwell, was awarded a medal for her heroic action.



The three barefoot girls in front of the gate are from left to right Vonell Parish, Lorene Parish and Frances Bush.

My Hometown

"The best of every journey made
Was getting home once more."
Edgar Guest

Huntingdon, Tennessee is my hometown. I was born here. I have no recollection of having lived on any other street, or of calling any other house, my home.

My father purchased the house, in the picture, in 1907 from Mr. M. F. Fry who had built it for his home two years earlier, but decided to move to Nashville. I was brought here in my mother's arms. She told many times of the way I blinked my eyes at the electric lights, because the house on Maple Street (my birth-place) from which they had moved, had no electricity.

The fancy trimmings on the house, the tall gables, the narrow front porch with its ornamental banisters, the board walk and the fence, point out the fact that the period was truly the early 1900's.

Some years later, the porch was widened, most of the fancy trimming removed, the fence torn down and concrete walks built. Much of the charm of the architecture of the time was sacrificed for comfort.

Note the Ice Card on the wall of the porch. This was placed there each morning to notify the ice man, as he approached in his wagon, the amount of ice needed by the family, 5, 10, 15 or 20 pounds with the figure at the bottom of the card, signifying

ing the amount desired. Who can forget the clang of the ice tongs, on a hot summer day, as the ice man, following a delivery, slung them back on the wagon? The kids on the street would jump on the back of the wagon, and munching slithers of ice, ride with him around East End, with their bare feet dragging in the dusty street, during each stop.

The lawn swing, on the left, reminds one of an era when a housekeeper had time, in the summer to sit in the swing with a neighbor, sew, talk, or merely relax. If one was alone, he might read, meditate or nap. At night, the family would gather on the porch, or sit in the lawn swing, between two huge snow-ball bushes, and discuss the happenings of the day, listen to the katy-dids and the song of the frogs, enjoy the cool evening breeze and bask in the delightful odor of the night-blooming jasmin. Ida Leach Browning, a neighbor, remembers taking walks with her future husband, passing our house, and thrilling to the lovely, romantic fragrance of the jasmine.

The white cloth on the grass, viewed through the fence posts, was the scene of a tea-party being enjoyed by the three bare-footed girls in front of the gate, Vonell Parish Wooten, Lorene Parish and Frances Enochs Bush, from which a traveling photographer summoned them to pose for a picture.



PICTURED above is the Carroll County Courthouse as it was seen in 1931 before a severe fire that almost burned some of the

Courthouse Fire of 1931

By FRANCES BUSH

About 6:15 on a late Thursday afternoon, forty-one years ago this week, January 29, 1931, the townspeople of Huntingdon were aroused from their evening meals by the fire alarm. The Carroll county courthouse was on fire.

The McKenzie fire department sped to the scene to assist the Huntingdon force with its battle to save the building, but in spite of valiant efforts by both departments the flames reached the upper stories and the floors began to cave in. In two hours it was a complete loss.

Everyone was very much interested in removing as much of the furniture as possible and worked feverishly in bringing out typewriters, adding machines, desks and stationery from the flamin building. All important records were in the vaults which fortunately withstood the heat.

The near loss of these valuable papers should serve as a warning to us today that the county records should be microfilmed, the films stored in the fire-proof vaults of the State Archives and preserved for the benefit of future generations.

Carroll county's first courthouse was built of logs in 1822. In 1824 it was sold to John Crockett who moved it away and made a kitchen of it. The second courthouse was a frame building 20 by 24 feet. In 1845 a brick building was erected. The picture of it

hangs in the office of the County Judge. In 1897 this building was remodeled and it was the building that burned in 1931.

On the afternoon of October 29, 1931, the corner stone of the present courthouse was unveiled at 1:30 with an appropriate ceremony. Music was furnished by the Hollow Rock-Bruceton Legion Band. Invocation by Dr. Geo. L. Johnson of McKenzie. Jacqueline Maddox of Huntingdon unveiled the corner stone. Addresses were made by Mr. Martin Roberts, Architect of Nashville; Hon. J. C. R. McCal; Mrs. J. R. Carter; Hon. J. T. Peeler; Hon. J. Sam Johnson; and Hon. Gordon Browning.

County officials were introduced: D. A. Burkhalter, County Judge; Tom C. Rye, Chancellor; W. W. Bond, Circuit Judge; G. C. Sherrod, Attorney-General; J. W. Williams, County Court Clerk; J. T. Hester, Trustee; Jodie Browning, Register; W. H. Blair, Circuit Court Clerk; R. A. Crider, Clerk & Master; J. C. Butler, Sheriff; E. H. Edwards, Superintendent; Earl Sargent, County Agent; Miss Louise Snell, Home Agent; B. H. Williams, R. L. Bryant, Murray Gilkey, John Cawthon, J. A. Traywick, Bob Little, R. D. Gwin, Elvis Pace, W. A. Pinkley and J. F. Brinkley.

The Building Committee: Judge D. A. Burkhalter, Chairman; D. L. Maddox, Secretary; George Pace, C. M. Wrinkle, J. A. Bramley, J. P. Cooper.

Larry Stewart: Famous Mustang

By SHIRLEY NANNEY

Larry Stewart still thinks about Huntingdon and says the best days of his life were spent here. And Huntingdon folks still remember Larry Stewart.

How could they forget the 5'9" 185 lb. senior tailback that brought the Huntingdon Mustangs from a winless season in 1955 to a perfect record of 10-0 in 1956.

Even now he refuses to take credit for the successful season even though he was the leading high school scorer in Tennessee in 1956 with 231 points. That record still stands.

Recently, he was back in Huntingdon to help raise money for the Carroll County Heart Fund at Care Inn Nursing Home where he performed a comedy skit.

He now lives in Jackson where he is Vice President of Development of Union University. Stewart is married to the former Mary Jane Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taylor of Huntingdon. The couple has two daughters, Angela, 21, and Kim, 16.

The son of Rev. and Mrs. Jonas Stewart, his father pastored the First Baptist Church here during the family's stay in Huntingdon.

After his appearance at Care Inn, he stopped at Woodard's Shoe Store on West Main where he visited with an old friend, Ray Woodard.

Woodard still remembers back in 1956 when at 11 he seriously watched football for the first time as did a lot of other people in Huntingdon. He recalled there was standing room only on the bleachers and at the ends of the fields with fans on their feet continuously cheering on their team that year.

"It was exciting," he said.

"Stewart and his fine blocking line would always lead their defensive player to the side lines and appear to be running out of bounds," said Woodard. "He would lose five yards and reverse side lines before racing 50 to 60 yards down the side line for the touchdown."

He recalled the fans watched in amazement, standing the entire game.

Stewart still praises his blocking line and Coach Paul Ward and not himself for his success.

"I just had a good blocking line and Coach Paul Ward," said Stewart.

He said the best year of his life was right here in Huntingdon. "The finest people live here and some of my dearest friends are here," he said.

His biggest scoring feat came during the last game of the season when he scored seven touchdowns against Jackson Northside. Huntingdon won, 45-21.

During one game he remembered having broken ribs, nose and toes, but he kept on playing.

Several honors were bestowed upon him that year. Among them were All Volunteer Conference team, Honorary Captain of All-West Tennessee team, All-State team, All Southern team, and all American Team (7th team).

That year, Paul Ward was selected as Coach of the Year in West Tennessee. He successfully guided the Mustangs into the Vol. Conference playoff. In this game they were beaten by Paris.

Coach Paul Ward even today looks back with pride on the year of 1956 as one of the best of his coaching career.

Ward, who serves as superintendent of the Huntingdon Special School District, remembers Stewart as one of the finest running backs at that time and even today.

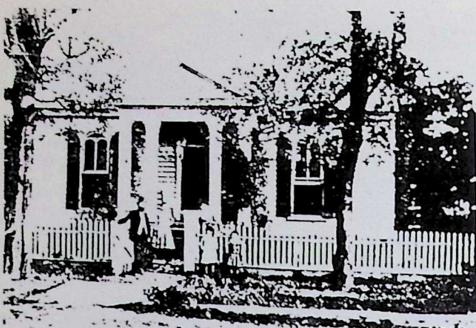
"He helped make me a football coach," noted Ward, who began his coaching career in 1950 and came to Huntingdon in 1953.

The former coach said Stewart had a unique manner of playing. "He had an uncanny balance," noted Ward. "He could change directions and displayed a quick burst of speed."

One tale has it Stewart could run the 50-yard dash faster on his hands than most could on their feet.

Other Pages From Huntingdon's Historic Past

Reprinted From
A History Of Carroll County



Townes House on Main Street



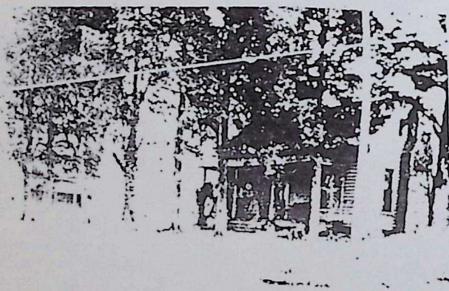
The John C. Wilder home in Huntingdon, with his family.



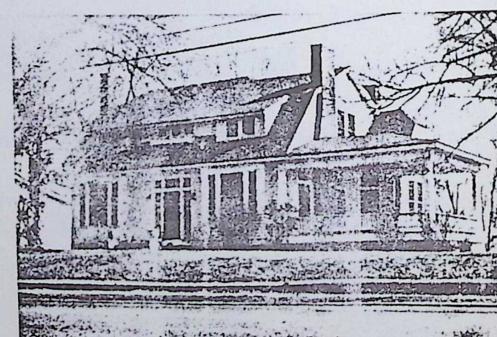
W.W. Murray home in Huntingdon.



Mebanewood 1897-1954 Home of the W.E. Mebane and O.C. Tidwell Families.

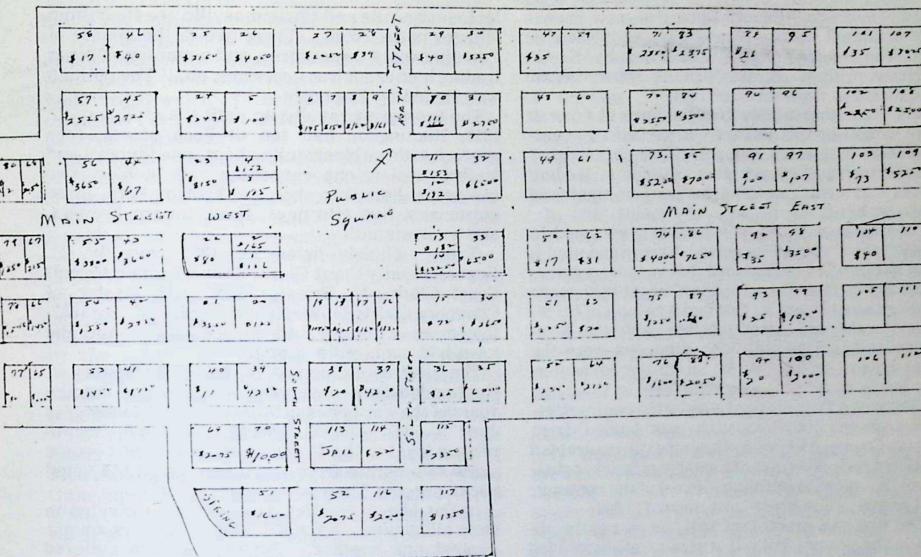


Smoot Home, First school held in the small house to the left.



Townes home later the Watson Home.

HUNTINGDON, CARROLL COUNTY SEAT OF JUSTICE



Platt of Huntingdon 1823

Huntingdon, the seat of justice of Carroll County, is located on Beaver Creek, a branch of the Forked Deer River. This site was chosen by commissioners appointed by Governor William Carroll, April 18, 1822. The town was platted by James H. Gee, on August 9, 1822, and named Huntsville. The name was changed to Huntingdon in December 1823. The title for the tract of land consisting of 50 acres was obtained July 21, 1823. It was incorporated November 14, 1823. The first recorded deed was for lot No. 16 to John Crocket and was recorded March 10, 1823.

In 1833, Huntingdon contained about 600 inhabitants; three lawyers, three doctors, one clergyman, an academy, two schools, seven stores, two taverns, seven carpenters, three cabinet makers, two brick layers, one hatter, three tailors, two shoemakers, three blacksmiths, one tinner, one tanner and two painters.

The first post office was established May 1, 1824 with R. E. C. Dougherty as postmaster. He served until September 23 of the same year, being replaced by Littleberry White.

Some of the early merchants of Huntingdon were Robert Murray, Ennis Ury, Armer, Lake and Company. Among the first physicians were Jacob

White, Robert Nicholson, Gabriel Norman, Dr. Hogg, and Thomas Ross ran the tan yard.

The lawyers of those days in going the rounds of the courts would have their fun. On one occasion at Huntingdon, a bull owned by the clerk of the court made his appearance about night with other cattle and having a bad name for breaking into corn fields, he was caught, tied to a stump on the square and tried for his crimes. Prosecutors and defenders were appointed, witnesses summed, and a great part of the night was spent in the trial. (From "Recollections of Memucan Hunt Howard", grandson of Memucan Hunt.)

The first newspaper published in Carroll County was the Huntingdon Advertiser, published at Huntingdon July 5, 1839, by W. W. Gates. Other early Huntingdon newspapers were the Courier, established about the year 1849 by C. P. Byers; the Carroll Patriot, established by William H. Hawkins, and published until the beginning of the civil war. The West Tennessean, established by A. W. Hawkins, was published about two years. The Tennessee Republican was established in March 1870, by E. G. Ridgeley, and its publication still continues. A little later the Vindicator was established by Grizzard and Algee for about two

years. The Carroll County Democrat, now known as the Carroll County News, was established in 1887. The People's Paper, published by E. G. Ridgeley, with W. H. Hawkins as editor, began publication in September of 1874.

It is interesting to know that the fares at taverns were established as follows: breakfast - 25 cents...dinner - 37½ cents...supper - 25 cents...lodging 12½ cents...whiskey per pint - 25 cents...feeding horses - 25 cents...keeping horses per night - 50 cents each.

The first courthouse, a log cabin, was sold in 1824 to John Crockett who moved it away and used it for a kitchen. It was replaced that year by a frame house 20 x 24 feet. This stood until about 1830, when the third court house, 30 x 50 feet was built of brick. John Parker and Jacob Bledsoe built the foundation and George and John Simmons were the brick masons, with Joel R. Smith the carpenter. The fourth courthouse was completed in 1844. Joel R. Smith and Thomas Banks were the contractors. The rock for the foundation was hauled from Benton County. The brick work was sub-contracted to William S. New for one cent per brick actual count. Mr. New, in fulfilling his part of the contract, lost heavily. The house cost about \$12,000.

The first jail erected in 1824, stood nearly opposite the present jail. It was a small hewed-log cabin, from which the prisoners frequently escaped. The second jail was built by Samuel Ingram, in the west part of town. The present jail was erected in 1875, under the supervision of J. P. Wilson, W. B. Grizzard, G. W. Humble, A. R. Hall, W. E. Mebane, Alfred Bryant, and L. A. Williams. It cost about \$11,000.

The first streets were no more than dusty byways. In fact, it was so dusty around Court House square that water wagons were used to water down the dust in hot months. The first account of sidewalks was in 1891 when the newspaper hailed the progress shown when the town put down plank walks near the school.

Early travel was by stage roads to Jackson, Paris, McMoresville, Reynoldsburg, Lexington and Trenton. These were only wide enough for one-lane traffic.

The following is an excerpt from a petition in 1838 made by citizens of Huntingdon and Carroll County to the President and the directors of the Bank of Tennessee: "The communication with Huntingdon from the surrounding counties is equal if not superior to that of any other town of the district. Besides the advantage of being on the great thoroughfare up and down the state, the main channel of communication in passing from Nashville to Memphis, it has three other tri-weekly stage lines, one to Paris, one to Trenton by way of McMoresville, and one to Purdy by way of Lexington. Mail routes are carried by horseback...besides the town of Huntingdon,

McMoresville and Christmasville are flourishing villages in the county. There are in the county of Carroll, twenty three stores, and a number of other trading houses such as groceries, etc." The petition was signed by 72 people.

The town grew rapidly up until the civil war. In 1853, Huntingdon had ten drygood stores, four groceries, three blacksmith shops, one tannery and leather dealer, one carpenter and builder, two cabinet makers, two shoe and boot makers, three physicians, five attorneys, three tavern keepers, and a silversmith.

County officials listed for 1853 were W. H. Graves, County Court Clerk; John Norman, Circuit Court Clerk; N. Priest, Clerk and Master of Chancery Court; G. W. Holladay, Sheriff. By 1857, five more attorneys had opened offices and the town had acquired a druggist.

The most tragic period of the entire history of Huntingdon as a town was that covered by the years of the war between the states, 1861 to 1865. On June 8, 1861, Carroll County voted whether to remain loyal to the Union or to secede. 967 people voted to separate from the Union, and 1,349 voted not to secede. The rest is history.

In this bloody conflict, families were divided in their allegiance. Relatives and neighbors fought against one another. Townsfolk also suffered greatly from foraging raiders. The county Court suspended business in December 1863 on account of the war, and did not resume operation until July 3, 1865, when it was re-organized under Gov. Brownlow's administration. Brick from the floor of the Court House was removed and a place was made beneath to hide the records of the Court.

In 1868, the mayor of Huntingdon was James P. Priestly. In 1869, Henry Townes; 1871, J. L. McNeil; 1872, J. P. Wilson; and in 1874, T. E. Jones.

The Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad (NC & St. L.) was completed through the county soon after the close of the civil war. It had stations within the county at Huntingdon, McKenzie, and Hollow Rock. In due time, the NC and St. L. was running four passenger trains through Huntingdon daily, two headed for Union City and two bound for what then was known as Hollow Rock Junction. For some time there also were two part-freight and part-passenger trains, complete with caboose, passing through Huntingdon each night, one going in each direction.

During the long period of passenger train service through Huntingdon, the railroad station, or depot as most people called it, was a scene of much activity each time a passenger train was scheduled to arrive. This was especially true of the 5 o'clock train from Bruceton and other points. Dozen of people would congregate at the depot whether or not they had business there.

Passenger train service was discontinued on

January 2, 1953. On that date, at the invitation of the L & N RR Company, successors to the old NC and St. L., a delegation of Huntingdon citizens, headed by the incumbent Mayor Robert (Bob) Murray, were guests for a last ride to Union City. There, Neill Wright was the principal speaker at a special ceremony marking the end of the passenger car era for Huntingdon.

Huntingdon has been noted for its array of strong lawyers at the bar, at one time considered the most brilliant in the state. Two of those brilliant lawyers went on to become governors of the state, Alvin Hawkins and Gordon Browning.

Politics has always been a community interest. In 1884, two brothers, Bob and Alf Taylor ran against each other in the governor's race, called the "War of the Roses." During the Campaign, the Republicans in Huntingdon wore red roses, made by the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church. Bob, the Democrat, was the winner. The victory was celebrated with a brilliant torch light procession. There were carriages covered with white roses drawn by snow white horses...their heads bedecked with white plumes. Long lines of men walking or on horseback, carrying torches and transparencies, followed the town band. J. Fred Walters had the important job of giving out the torches from a stand on Jackson Street.

A hot political fight in 1890 resulted in a Democratic victory for the town and county, always considered the "Gibraltar of Republicanism." To celebrate the victory, Buck Gilbert, editor of the Carroll County Democrat, printed the entire paper in red, with flaming red roosters strutting across the pages, bearing the names of the winning candidates. (From "A History of Huntingdon" by Alida Townes, 1953).

Among the first schools in Huntingdon was a private school located on Main Street. Miss Melinda Smoot was the teacher. The first high school was in operation in 1880 and had a total of 67 students. In 1891, Southern Normal University opened in Huntingdon with an enrollment of 550 students from ten states. It ceased to operate in 1908. This same year, the Industrial Training School was opened by J. H. Bayer, who bought the S. N. U. plant. This operation closed in 1918, and the high school was opened in the same building.

In 1898 W. H. Eason was Mayor of Huntingdon; Warren Parsons was Town Marshall, and the Board of Aldermen were G. W. Humble, W. H. Hilliard, W. T. Warren, A. M. Lee, W. E. Leach, G. T. McCall, and Elvis Priest.

There were in the town five white and three colored churches. There were eight dry good stores, ten family groceries, two jewelry stores, two drug stores, one tin shop, a marble yard, a photography gallery, a tobacco factory, two flour and grist mills, two saw mills, a cotton gin, two

stave factories, one book store, two meat markets, two shoe shops, one heading and hoop factory, one barrel and one ax handle factory, barbershops, three blacksmith shops, hotels, two livery stables, one furniture store, two saloons, (the only survivor of thirteen at one time a few years ago). Newspapers operating in 1896 were the Carroll County Democrat with J. B. Gilbert editor; the Tennessee Republican with J. C. R. McCall editor; "Sunshine", editor W. L. Noell; and the Southern Normalite.

In 1899, Huntingdon opened the Hotel Olive, It was built by Dr. W. M. Wright, and named for his daughter Olive. It was managed by Guy Hall from November 15, 1900, until at least December of 1901. (from an article by George Pearson in The Nashville American in the Sunday, December 22, 1901, edition). "It was labeled by some as "a splendid three-story brick on the southwest corner of the square and is easily one of the most ornamental buildings in the city." There were 30 rooms. On each floor there were baths with hot and cold water. It was lighted by electricity and "is one of only two houses in town provided with a sewerage system." This building burned in 1930. A first hand account by Dr. Cromwell Tidwell of Nashville states that the coffee pot exploded in the coffee shop, blowing out the side of the building. Fried pies flew through the air in all directions. Several young men, Dr. Tidwell included, sat on the Court House steps eating these pies and watching the fire. The post office next door was burned, but the mail was saved.

For a number of years, electric service in Huntingdon was available only during the evenings and even the street lights were turned off at midnight. Mrs. John B. Dill has an old record book containing the names of customers beginning in 1901. Mr. John Dill managed the electrical plant for several years. Their son Martin was general handy-man around the place. He shoveled coal, shavings, and sawdust to fire the boilers when he was so small a special shovel had to be made for him. He graduated eventually to wiring houses and reading light meters. Incidentally, meters in those days were indiscriminately strewn throughout the inside of the houses rather than on the outside. We understand the scenes were frequently hilarious when Martin poked his head in the front door and yelled "read your meter".

Water from the old electric light and water works was pumped by two wells which contained both sulfur and iron. The water frequently ran red, making it unfit for washing clothes. Rain or creek water was used instead.

The town continued to prosper. In 1901 the Carroll County Telephone Company listed 150 local subscribers, with exchanges at McKenzie, Trezevant, Hollow Rock and other points.

1855 is the earliest recorded date for the Carroll County Fair. It was held in McKenzie at least through 1860, according to J. F. Walters. Information about the intervening years is incomplete; however, it resumed in Huntingdon in 1906. The fair was staged on Court House Square for a number of years then was moved to Edwards Park some time later, and has remained on that site until the present day. Mr. W. L. Noell with the able assistance of J. Fred Walters, served as organizer of the first fair in Huntingdon and spent a total of thirty years with it as manager seeking to improve it each year until he died and others took over.

From the time the county was established until well after the turn of the century, Huntingdon as the county seat was the center of social and cultural life. On February 8, 1858, invitations were issued to a Grand Ball to be given at the Huntingdon Inn, on "Monday evening, the 22nd instant" ... and people from three counties were on the committee in charge. It was truly a "Tri County" endeavor...with Henry, Weakley and Carroll participating.

Women have, of course, played many important rolls in the development of the town of Huntingdon as well as the county. The Twenty-first Century Book Club was organized in Huntingdon in 1898. Mrs. George T. McCall was the first president. This was a very important social organization, meeting every two weeks. It was limited to 26 members. Each one selected a book and exchanged with other members. Ladies in those days had time to spare...they handpainted their score cards, one for each member, and conducted entertaining little contests at each meeting. Another club for women, "The Woman's Club", has been very active for over 50 years. In about 1965, "The Woman's Club", with the help of Mrs. Jo Harline, Mrs. Jo Ann Marshall, and Mrs. Bob Dilday, organized the "Jr. Woman's Club", which is also still active. The Garden Club, in the past as well as in the present, are making beauty spots of ugly places. The P. T. A. is a very active group doing wonderful work for the schools.

The Civic Improvement Club of Huntingdon was organized August 3, 1906 with thirty members. The membership then was limited to women. Interest was intense and the needs of the town were earnestly discussed. "How to limit the range and depredations of the 'town cow'?" How to suppress the weeds on the side walks? How to prevent the store-keepers from sweeping refuse into the streets and half-burning or leaving it for the winds to blow away? And how to get better sanitation in certain quarters were warmly discussed questions at the first meeting. Geese, pigs and chickens roamed at will like the cow, and the yards and gardens were enclosed with fences of varying types which made a

motly discord and homely landscape." (Mrs. John T. Peeler in 1923)...Mrs. Peeler goes on to tell us that by means of state and city laws, the latter passed at the insistence of the Civic Improvement Club...the animals and fowl were put in enclosures and the year fences taken down. Thus developing a parking-plan of all the yards along the streets and making for greater uniformity and beauty.

Some of the noteworthy accomplishments of the Civic Improvement Club were "setting shade-trees, cleaning up and making into flower parks the three vacant lots on Court Square where buildings had burned, a chicken law that withstood every effort at repeal, grading and sodding the Court House lawn and the establishment of a permanent park..." Thomas Park." Thomas Park was made possible by the gift of the lot (one and a half acres), gravel for the walks, park seats, and trees, by the NC and St. L. Railroad Company, free lights and water by the city, and the work and supervision of the Club at a cost of \$40.00 to \$100.00 annually (in 1923). In addition, through the club's petition, a high iron fence was removed from about the Court House lawn and a wide concrete pavement built instead, by the Quarterly Court.

J. L. Pickler, Carroll County's oldest citizen, was born January 30, 1868 between Hollow Rock and Buena Vista. He was the son of Jesse and Lucy Ann Butler Pickler. His father was a civil war veteran having served with the Union forces. Mr. Pickler married Miss Alice Thomason on January 20, 1892. They were parents of ten children. Mr. Pickler remembers when eggs sold for five cents a dozen and twenty-five cents a day was the wage paid for labor. If you want to really hear about Carroll County history first hand, visit J. L. Pickler on Maple Street in Huntingdon.

Mrs. J. C. McCauley, a Huntingdon resident, is in her one hundred year, and still active.

Today Huntingdon's population is about 4,000. This thriving town has fine schools and churches, a well-equipped hospital, and clinics, and a large and easily assessible business district. It has a County Memorial Library. The building was donated by W. Poe Maddox as a memorial to his wife, Florine Harbert Maddox. Several large industrial complexes furnish employment for the people of the surrounding area.

The town of Huntingdon cannot be separated from Huntingdon, the County Seat of Justice. The following pictures will continue the story of the town that belongs to all citizens of Carroll County.

(Information for this article was obtained from Frances Enochs Bush, Ben Humble Hall, Dr. Cromwell Tidwell, as well as many scrapbooks filled with articles written on Huntingdon over the years.)

Huntingdon First United Methodist Church

With the settlers of Carroll county came some Methodists, but we have no record of the organization of the church until some time later. In the 1830's there were traveling preachers who held meeting of this historic denomination in our community.

At Hopkinsville, Kentucky in 1820 Lewis Garrett Jr. and Hezekiah Holland were appointed to the "Western Purchase". Holland for some reason did not go, so Benjamin Peebles took his place.

Peebles and Garrett met at the Public Land Office at the home of R.E.C. Doughtery and agreed to make that a dividing line between their fields of labor. Peebles took all the territory north of the line as far as Paducah, Kentucky, and Garrett took all the territory south of the line as far as Granada, Mississippi. The Huntingdon Methodist church was in the northern part, the Big Sandy Circuit. In 1840, it is said, there was an organized Methodist Society in Huntingdon. A Union Sunday School met where the Farm Bureau Office is now located. (It was once the Cumberland Presbyterian Church). On Sunday, July 1, 1877, the Sabbath School of the Methodist Church South of Huntingdon was organized in a little frame church where the Tennessee Department of Welfare office is now located, corner of Main Street and 3rd Ave. It was the first denominational school established in the town after the close of the War Between the States. A.G. Hawkins was elected superintendent; R.N. Payne (father of Miss Nannie Payne) assistant superintendent; J.C. Courts, secretary and treasurer; R.M. Hall, Librarian; R.F. Truslow and W.L. Gardner, assistant organists, and W.H. Gardner, chaplain. The attendance on August 18, 1877 was 60 with an enrollment of 90.

In 1879, the Christian Church had begun to erect a brick church building on the block below the Welfare Office, on Main Street, between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue. They laid the foundation, constructed the walls and even put on the roof, but then decided they could not complete the task, so the Methodist Church made an exchange of the hill property for the "Lot No. 49 on which an unfinished brick building stood." The trustees were Alfred Bryant, S.W. Hawkins, A.G. Hawkins, J.T. Gardner, and James C. Courts. The cost was \$1388.20 and a further sum of \$611.80 to be paid on an indebtedness due an individual. The Christian Church had bought the property from T.A. Martin, July 27, 1874.

In 1910, this church building was rebuilt under the supervision of the following committee: Wilson Enochs, J.T. Peeler, W.E. Leach, J.F. Leach, W.F. Fowler, J.E. Garver, Olgah Mebane, and Allen Eason. Rev. R.M. Walker was the pastor.

During the ministry of the late Rev. C.H. Rayl,

1945-1948, the church was rebuilt for the second time. Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, rest-rooms and many other improvements were made. Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Barrow provided the impressive pews for the sanctuary. The building committee was composed of Odell Wyatt, H.B. Easley, Mary Leach and R.C. Austin.

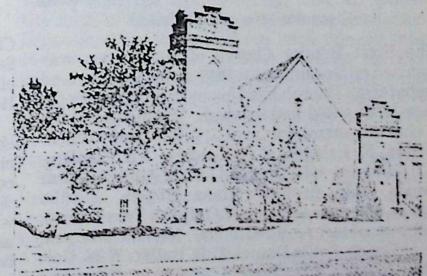
May 23, 1967, the congregation voted to relocate. In March, 1969, bids were received and the contract was let so that construction could begin in May, 1969. The building committee with Robert Fowler, Chairman, was composed of the late Roy A. Douglass, Sr., Sam Barger, Billy J. Portis, Guy R. Kirk, John D. Carter, Mrs. Orville Pace, John L. Williams and Dwayne Barger. Two members resigned and one was lost by death. Financing of the building program was led by Roy Tarwater, Jr., chairman, Dr. K.D. Miller, Sr., Kenneth Martin Sr., Mrs. John A. Pitts, and Odell Wyatt.

The pastor, Rev. E. Wesley McKinnie served as ex-officio member on both the building and finance committees.

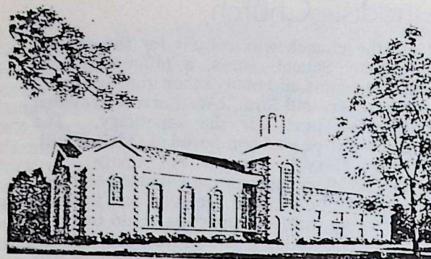
Architects for the building were Hart, Freeland and Roberts of Nashville and the contractor was Sam Barger Construction Company of Huntingdon.

Special services were held September 20, 1970 at 10 a.m. at the old church site. Following the deconsecration service the Trustees, Kenneth Martin Sr., Aaron Clement, Robert Fowler, Glenn Bush, Jerry Atkins, Sam Barger, Billy J. Portis, Parnell Taylor and Harris Norwood, removed the sacramental elements and transported them to the new church building, accompanied by the congregation. Worship was continued at the new church.

On October 18, 1970, the Consecration Service was held, at which time Bishop H.E. Finger Jr. conducted the services. Others participating in the service included the Lexington District Superintendent Rev. James Mulroy, and the church pastor, Rev. E. Wesley McKinnie.

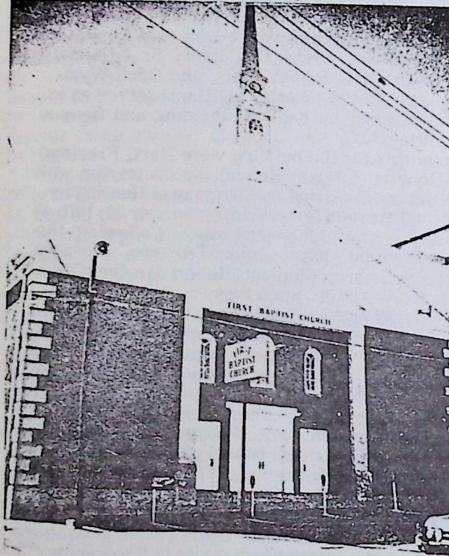


Methodist Church purchased 1879 rebuilt 1910



First United Methodist Church of Huntingdon

Huntingdon First Baptist Church



Huntingdon First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Huntingdon was organized on December 31, 1888, in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church building by a group of people whose hearts God had touched. The names of the 23 charter members are: J.W. Brown, H.F. Bridges, E. Bridges, F.C. Sanders, J.B. Sanders, E.C. Sanders, A.D. Hilliard, F.C. Hilliard, Eliza Townes, Ada Brewer, Diana Rogers, Martha Rogers, Phedora Duncan, H.O. Hood, Triona Hood, Narcisus Hood, J.B. Gilbert, Mahala Morgan, Linda Gooch, Sallie Daniel, E.B. Butler, W.W. Gee, E.M. Joyner, J.D. Rogers and G.L. Ellis con-

stituted the Presbytery, the sermon being preached by Rev. Ellis, who was called as first pastor of the church.

A church building was erected in 1889. It was used until torn down for the erection of the present building in 1955. The lot was a gift from the late Judge Joe R. Hawkins who said that though "he was not a church man, he would not live in a town that had no church." F.C. Sanders and A.D. Hilliard were elected as the first deacons of the church on Feb. 2, 1889.

The first preacher ordained to the "Full work of the ministry" was Brother G.W. Ellestion in 1898. Another ordination service was held the same year for Brother W.T. Rose.

Rev. Bernard Scates was the first full-time minister of this church. First educational building added during his pastorate.

Today's church has been extensively remodeled and enlarged, membership is about 700. A new home for the pastor was purchased in 1958. In 1963 Sam Kennon gave a deed for a lot immediately back of the church for additional church buildings.

Rev. Willis Henson was the last pastor, a few weeks ago he moved to Kentucky. Twenty-seven pastors have served this church.

Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church of Huntingdon

The Huntingdon Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. Robert Baker on Sept. 17, 1841; shortly afterward, the congregation elected M. Bigham, John Dickson, and William Harrell as Elders, and Andrew Neeley as Deacon.

This was perhaps the first organized Christian church in Huntingdon, and for a time there was no church building. For some years prior to 1841 the community had preaching services by ministers of different denominations. An old brick academy was used as a preaching place, or "meeting house" as it was termed in those days, until this building became so dilapidated as to be unsafe. Afterwards, an old two-story log building, known as

the Masonic Hall, was used as a meeting house. This building contained an "old, bee-gum looking pulpit standing high up and narrow. Just over the bookboard might be seen the shirt from of the minister, but not the bottom of his vest." Mention is made of a Lutheran minister, Rev. Jenkins, who occasionally preached from that old desk, standing there with his green spectacles on, preaching for an hour and a half.

No further records exist until 1851, when it is noted that the membership had increased to 75 in number, with a church building erected and partly furnished and a church bell purchased. Among the members were Mary Murray, Eliza Crockett, Elizabeth Wright, Cal Moses Wright, Dr. Ebenezer Wright, Edmond Grizzard, and the Minister, Rev. Robert Baker. Prior to 1850 Dr. Rubin Burrows and Rev. Thomas---also served the church. Later minutes show that Rev. A.E. Cooper was pastor, and that J.W. Grizzard, P.G. Wright, and J.G. B. Noell were the Ruling Elders in the Congregation, and that Bro. David Bell was ordained as an Elder.

In the summer of 1850, under the preaching of one Brother Campbell, the church and community were visited by a "very gracious revival of religion, and many were converted during the revival." Among these were B.S. Allen, Jerry G. Noell, P.G. Wright, J.W. Grizzard, E.N. Williams, and Richard K. Smoot. The Session Records kept by Ruling Elder J.G. Noell, who was Clerk of Session much of the time from the church's organization until 1867, provided the data from which these facts were taken.

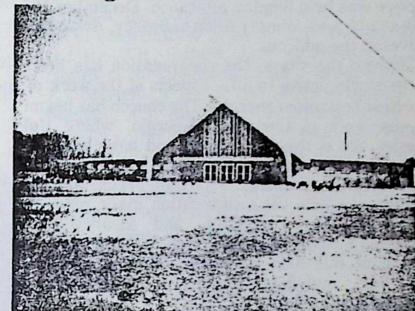
No other history is recorded from 1867 until the Sessional Records resume, as recorded by Tom Greene, Clerk of Session, in 1924. The following information has been gleaned from present long-time residents of Huntingdon, which help to complete the church's history: Sometime prior to 1905, the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation built a structure which is still used by the Carroll County Farm Bureau as their auditorium. Other denominations used this building with the Cumberland Presbyterians, among them the Christian Church. Sometime between 1906 and 1910, several families withdrew from the Cumberland Church and affiliated with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. ("Northern"). The Incorporators of this congregation were A.M. Grizzard, W.B. Grizzard, W.L. Noell (who also served as Sunday School Supt. for many years), Joe McCracken, J.B. Dill, J.C. Wilder, A.W. McNeill, and W.M. Carson. Under the leadership of their pastor, Rev. George L. Johnson, this group purchased the East Main Street residence and property of Mrs. Mary E. Prince on March 19, 1910, and the following year, constructed the present church structure, dedicating it on July 16, 1911.

Pastors who have served the church since this

time include Rev. W.L. Wheeler, Rev. R.O. Gardner, Rev. Thornton Thompson, and Rev. James Mauldin, with many ministerial students and teachers filling the pulpit on a temporary basis between the terms of these full-time ministers. Elders who have served the church in recent years include Tom Greene, Gordon Wilder, Sr., W.F. Jones, and Wayne Jones.

(Submitted by E.E. Pace, Jr.)

Huntingdon Church Of Christ



Huntingdon Church of Christ

The exact date of this congregation's beginning is not known, but its history goes back into the 1800's, when such pioneers as T.B. Larrimore, A.G. Freed, N.B. Hardeman, Hall L. Calhoun, W. Claude Hall, G.C. Brewer, J.W. Dunn, Charlie Taylor and L.O. Sanderson came to hold meetings. While meetings were held with regularity, there was no regular preaching until about forty years ago, when Fred Chunn, of Henry, Tennessee began coming to Huntingdon to preach once a month.

Having met in rented quarters, the congregation moved into a new building on East Main Street in 1949 with facilities thought to be adequate for many years to come. In that new building, Burl Grubb held the first meeting, and E. Claude Gardner, of Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, began to come to Huntingdon each Sunday from 1949 to 1952. E. Lacy Porter became the first preacher to locate and work with the congregation on a full-time basis in 1952. Others who have lived and worked with the congregation full-time have been, in order, O.H. Hogue, Jimmy Powell, B.F. Haynie, Jr., E.C. Meadows, and W.N. Jackson.

Those who have held meetings in these years have been: H.A. Dixon, E. Ray Jenkins, E.W. Stovall, Georg. Deloof, Grover Stevens, Emerson Estes, James Cope, Alan Highears, Loyce Pearce, A.W. Chism, B.B. James, Bonds, Stock, H.I. Bradfield, Tom Holland, W.A. Bradfield Charles Coil, L. Arnold Watson, Willard Collins and James Meadows.

In 1959, the congregation built an annex, and planned additional classroom areas, and in 1962 the front of the Main Street building was remodeled, and a nursery was built. In just a few years, it was evident that entire new facilities were urgently needed, and the congregation purchased 11.2 acres of land on Highway 70 just beyond the Highway 70 and 70A intersection. This purchasing was done in 1965, with plans for a new building to be erected in 1966. The new \$210,000 church building was entered on December 7, 1966, and the formal open house service was held Sunday afternoon, December 18, 1966 at 2:00 p.m. Jimmy Allen of Searcy, Arkansas delivered the address.

Through the years, the congregation has been increasingly active in all aspects of the work of the New Testament church. The church has begun a new work in Covington, Georgia, where Uel Hester, Jr. is the missionary, and has continued support of the work in Frankfort Indiana; Paris and Versailles, Kentucky; Pakistan, Jerusalem and Saigon. In 1969, the congregation made plans to erect its own orphanage, and Meadowbrook Children's Home became a reality. Licensed by the State, this child-care center is filled capacity, and Mrs. and Mrs. Bobby Hardy are the houseparents.

For a number of years, the congregation maintained both daily and Sunday radio programs; among the many aspects of the regular work of the congregation are: weekly sermons in the county paper, weekly personal visitation work, regular correspondence courses, help to the local colored congregation, and continued use of gospel literature, including the sending of the weekly paper, *The Gospel Advocate*, into the home of each family.

The Sunday morning attendance is in the 425-500 range, and the weekly budget is now \$1275.00. The congregation publishes a weekly bulletin, *The Reminder*, and has just purchased a new offset press.

Thomas Scoggins is the treasurer, and Mrs. Howard Pruett is the church secretary. The deacons are: Joe Adams, Lester Anderson, Joe Bridges, Doyle Davison, J.W. Hollowell, Joe Milam, Howard Pruett, and Arvil Laws. The elders are: H.W. Belew, John C. Hall, Ben R. Holladay, B.B. Norden and Jesse Pinckley.

Mount Zion United Methodist "LITTLE CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART"

Mount Zion was appointed its first pastors at the Annual Conference of 1847. Both Nathan Sullivan and J.A. Manley were appointed to preach at Mount Zion during the fall of 1847.

Mount Zion continued at this first location until about 1875-1880. At that time a portion of the old

building was moved to the present site. Some additions were made to the old building that had been moved with the result being a one room church that was to serve until 1952.

In the early months of 1952, the men of the church, along with their pastor, Rev. A.D. Stanley began to tear down the old building that had served well for a long, long time. It was only a short time after that the present sanctuary was built. This building served as both sanctuary and Sunday School department until 1958 when three classrooms were added. Rev. Ronald C. Allen was the pastor when this addition was made.

For many years Mount Zion and the First United Methodist Church in Huntingdon were served as a double appointment. Later, Mount Zion became a part of the Hollow Rock Circuit and continued in this capacity until the conference of 1932. At that time the Huntingdon circuit was formed with Mount Zion becoming one of the six members making up the circuit. The others were Long Rock, Palmer Shelter, Davis Chapel, Lebanon and Hickory Flat. Hickory Flat has since joined another charge.

For many years Beaver Creek School (formerly Beaver Creek Academy) was located on the lot just to the north of Mount Zion church. The combined church and school yard was a perfect place for ball games and the spring was a welcome source of comfort to many a thirsty girl or boy. Beaver Creek School closed its doors in 1947, and the old building torn down.

Mr. Isaac S. Enochs was the first person ever to be baptised into the church on profession of faith. This was in 1850.

"The history of Mount Zion United Methodist Church is long and illustrious and its people have every right to be proud of it. May its future be as great as its past."

(From a history written by Jerry L. Hassell, Former pastor.)

Southern Normal University

"In 1890 a location was being sought for a first-class, well-equipped college which would draw patronage from all over the South and the West, from the entire country. Several towns in West Tennessee offered inducements for the school, but when accessibility, ideality of location, advantages, enthusiasm and public spirit of the citizenship were taken into consideration, Huntingdon was chosen. Accordingly, a campus of twelve acres was laid out in the most elevated and beautiful part of the city, and upon this ground buildings costing over \$30,000 were erected. After running eleven years, the school on account of accumulation of a debt upon the buildings, was sold for the purpose of wiping out all hindrances of this

kind, and thus get the school upon a foundation of undisputed permanency. Accordingly bonds were floated and the city purchased the buildings. They have been put in first-class repair; and in the summer of 1902, Prof. A.E. Booth was elected President."

(From a 1904 catalogue.)

The Southern Normal University was chartered August 18, 1890 with the following as trustees: W.M. Wright, W.L. Noell, A.R. Carnes, J.R. Hawkins, J.W. Wilder, H.C. Townes, A.G. Hawkins, J.C.R. McCall, R.F. Truslow, A.C. McNeill, J.A. Baber.

(Carroll County Charter Book Page 66)

J.A. Baber was the founder and First President.

In 1908 it was bought by J.H. Bayer, and renamed Industrial and Training School.



J.A. Baber, President of Southern Normal University 1908-1918



J.H. Bayer, President of Southern Normal University 1908-1918

The Corner Stone

(Taken from Carroll County Democrat, May 1, 1891)

Chancellor A.G. Hawkins, president of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Normal University, last Tuesday appointed a committee of the following gentlemen to get up a program and make preparations for the laying of the corner stone of the Southern Normal University. H.C. Townes, R.F. Truslow, H.N. Hawkins, R.H. McClain and T.H. Baker. The committee met Tuesday and planned the following:

The citizens of Huntingdon, including the various organizations, will meet in the court yard promptly at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and will be assigned positions in the parade by the marshals. At 9:00 the line of march will be taken, preceded by the Huntingdon cornet band, to the University site. Upon arrival the exercises will be opened with prayer by Rev. A.D. Presett followed by short speeches by ex-Gov. Hawkins, Hon. A.G. Hawkins, H.C. Townes, Prof. Baber and others. At the

conclusion, Prof. J.A. Baber will deposit the names of the charter members, board of directors, stockholders, faculty and first announcement of the Southern Normal University in the receptacle to be placed under the corner stone. County Judge G.W. Humble will then deposit the names of the county officials Mayor Levi McEwen will deposit the names of the board of mayor and aldermen and a copy of the by-laws and charter of the city. Col. T.H. Baber will deposit a copy of the Carroll County Democrat and Tennessee Republican. R.T. Brown, on behalf of the religious organizations, will deposit a copy of the Holy Scriptures. Hon. G.T. McCall a list of the members of the K. of P. Masons and the G.A.R.; J.B. Gilbert, first vice-president, the names of the members of the Commercial Club; A.C. McNeill, a list of the business men of Huntingdon; A.J. Hunziker, the names of the Huntingdon cornet band; Wm. Johnson, the names of the contractors and employees of the building, including that of the architect.

After the box is placed in position by B.T. Fowler, Miss Alida Townes and Ethel Grizard will place the corner stone in position.

The benediction will be pronounced by Rev. P.F. Johnson.

"A Spendid Opening"

Taken from the October 16, 1891 Issue of the Carroll County Democrat.

"Last Tuesday was a red letter day in Huntingdon. It was a day that has been looked forward with much anxiety, since it has been an assured fact that the Southern Normal University would be located here. It was the occasion of the opening of that institution of learning. Its friends, and everybody here is its friend, feared that the postponement of the opening from the first of September to the fifteenth of October would greatly injure it, but it seems that those fears were not well founded for the opening was a grand success.

Tuesday morning at nine o'clock 300 students had entered the university hall and reported for matriculation. Of this number fully 100 are non-residents of Huntingdon. Students are still coming in and by Christmas there will be between 150 and 200 boarders.

The public exercises at the university hall were largely attended, the crowd being estimated at from 800 to 1200 people.

Speeches were made by Ex-Gov. Hawkins, Chancellor A.G. Hawkins, Hon. H.C. Townes and Prof. Baber, Davison and McDougle. The speeches were short and abounded in enthusiasm and well wished for the success of the school. The recitations by Miss Wells were splendidly received by the audience and highly complimented since. The singing by Miss Erin Priest and the solo played by Miss Vanhorn were well received and added much to the success of the evening. The

County Officials Elected in 1946



Frank Taylor
Trustee



James M. McLemore
County Court Clerk



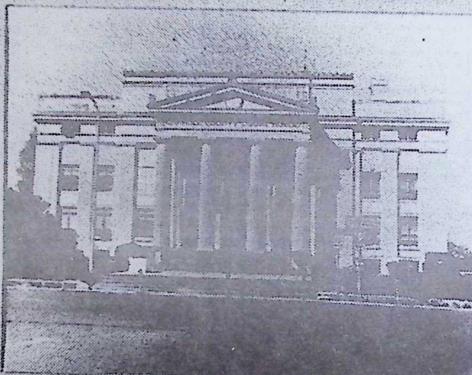
Allen E. Williams
Circuit Court Clerk



Joe Gateley
County Register



L. D. Lewis
Sheriff



Norine Taylor
Assessor of Property



R. C. Austin
County Superintendent



R. A. Crider
Clerk and Master



J. Adrain Bramley
County Judge



Clarence McLemore
Road Supervisor



Here are the Carroll County Officials who were elected in 1950: (back row from left) Eulus Brewer, Road Supervisor; J. C. Denton, Superintendent of Schools; James M. McLemore, Court Clerk; Joe Gateley, Register of Deeds; John

L. Williams, Circuit Court Clerk; (front row from left) Norine Taylor, Assessor of Property; J. Adrain Bramley, County Judge; G. E. Davison, Sheriff; Jeff J. Blanks, Jr., Trustee.

-photo courtesy of James M. McLemore



The Home of the Billy O. Williams, Carroll County Museum is being remodeled



These folks met recently for the groundbreaking for the Billy O. Williams, Carroll County Museum. They include, from left, Huntingdon Mayor Jesse B. Pinckley, Mrs. Margaret

Williams, Charles Demoss, Ann Boyd, and Martha Chance.
-photo by Shirley Nanney

The Huntingdon Town Council today (the most recent election was March, 1986) includes, from left, Harold Howard, Recorder Ken Houston, Sr. A.D. Marshall, Betty Smith, Attorney Robert Keeton, (seated) Mayor Jesse B. Pinckley, Steve

Bunn, Vice Mayor Sylvie Cary, City Judge Donald Parish, Carmack Hammett, Mike Hayes.





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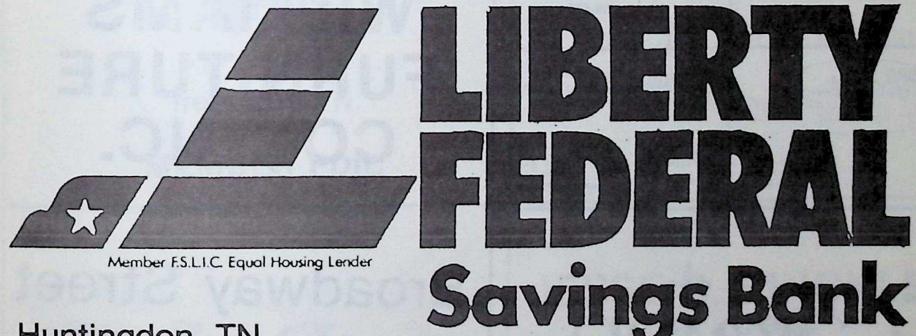
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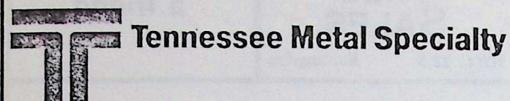
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WAL-MART

HUNTINGDON, TN

Wal-Mart management and associates
are proud to be a part of Huntingdon
and Huntingdon's history.

Wal-Mart started out as Walton's five
& dime, a franchise store associated with
the Ben Franklin Dime Store chain, Wal-
Mart has today grown to be the second
largest discount store chain in
America. With a unique idea in mind
the Walton's broke with Ben Franklin in
1962 and opened the first Wal-Mart Dis-
count store in Rogers, Arkansas.

Wal-Mart is the largest Department store
in Huntingdon and the Wal-Mart chain
is the second largest retail outlet store
in the United States. There are 898
Wal-Mart stores in 23 states and 110,000
associates.

Wal-Mart in Huntingdon underwent a
major remodeling in 1985 and joined its
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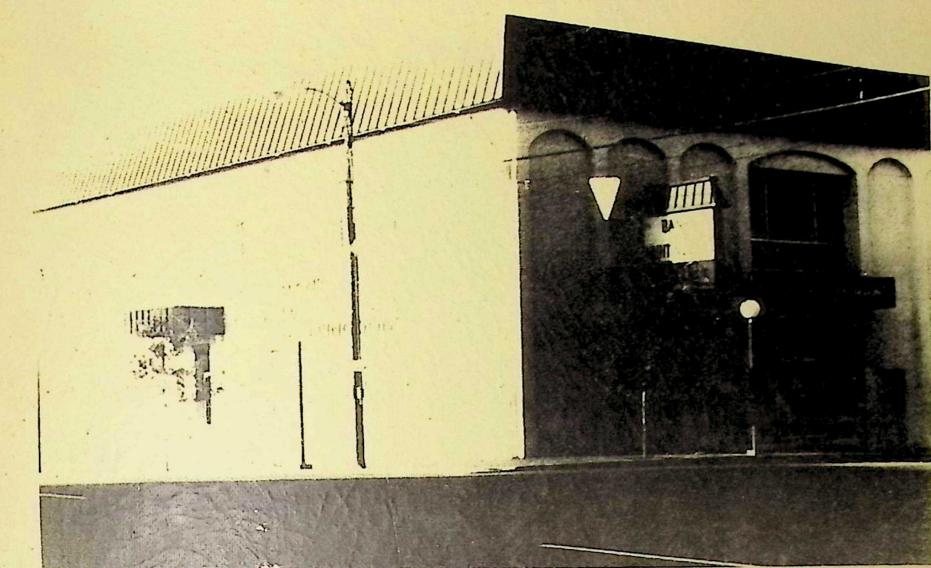
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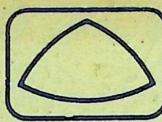
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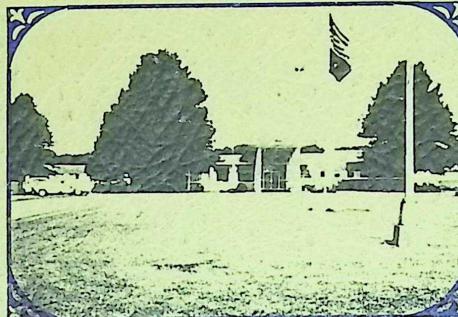
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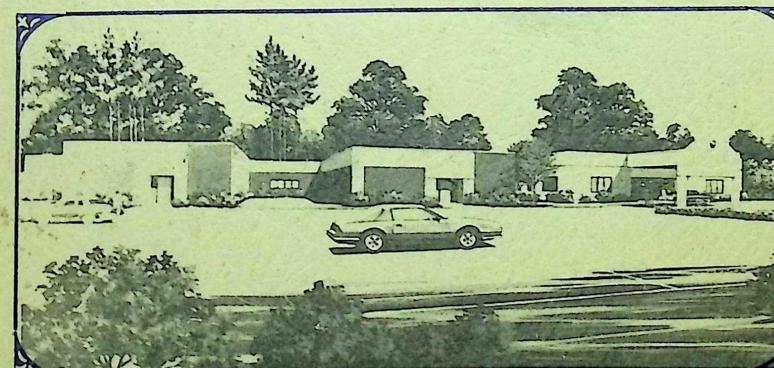
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